



NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Welcome to the 19th NEC Cup Bridge Festival

Once again this year's NEC Cup sports an impressive international field that includes many of the world's top players. Stage One features a 12-round, three-day Swiss Teams qualifier with 14-board matches, imps converted to Victory Points using the new 14-Board WBF scale. (Note: the VP scales in the player score book are still the "old" scales. The new 14-Board scale may be found posted outside the playing area and on page 3 of this bulletin.) For Match One, the top 23 teams from the 46-team field have been paired at random against teams 24-46. Subsequent pairings will be based on current VP totals. The top eight teams at the end of the third day's play will qualify for the KO phase. The quarter- and semi-finals will consist of 32-board matches, while the final will be contested over 64 boards (with the two losing semi-finalists tying for 3rd/4th). On Friday, February 14, the Yokohama IMP Pairs will be held followed on Saturday, February 15, by the Yokohama Swiss Teams (A, B & C) and on Sunday, February 16, by the Asuka Cup (Open Pairs). (Note the Convention Regulations for pair games is in your player bag and here on page 8.) Beginning this year the results of all current matches in the NEC Cup will be uploaded to the JCBL web site on a real-time basis (see page 6). We tried to recruit a JCBL staff member to do this but they all claimed to be too busy working on their fantasy Olympic picks. So instead we recruited a *Zashiki-warashi* to oversee the web updating.

The Daily Bulletin Office/Secretariat and the Chief Director

As always, we need your help to keep everyone informed of the happenings at this tournament. Please report anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens in your matches (bridge or otherwise) to the **Daily Bulletin Office, a.k.a. The Secretariat** (Conference Center, Room 411). If we're not in, leave a note in front of either of our computers (they're the two PCs on the right end of the table at the rear). The **Secretariat** opens each day 30 minutes before starting time. You can contact the Secretariat via house phone from the hotel (Ext. 3411), 228-6403 (from the Yokohama City area), 045-228-6403 (from outside Yokohama), or +81 45 228-6403 (from overseas). The editors may be contacted via e-mail (rcolker@gmail.com; barryrigal@mindspring.com). If you're trying to reach someone you can't find here at the festival, you may leave a message with us and we'll do our best to get it to them. The **Chief Tournament Director** at the **NEC Bridge Festival** is once again the witty, urbane and occasionally immovable **Richard Grenside**, as always under the close supervision of wife Sue. Be advised that you call him at your own risk. Co-Director of the NEC Cup is **Tadayoshi Nakatani**.

PCs with Internet access are available for player/ use inside the Secretariat (Room 411), along the wall to the right.

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 19th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/tabid/1043/Default.aspx>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

NEC Cup 2014: Conditions of Contest

A 12-round Swiss of 14-board matches will qualify the top 8 teams to the Knockout phase; no playbacks.

V.P. Scale: New WBF 14-board scale (20-point scale, continuous and given to two decimal places).

Seating Rights: Blind seating 10 minutes before the start of match.

KO-Phase Seating: The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in either of the two 16-board segments of the quarter- or semi-finals. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the choices will alternate over segments.

Swiss Pairings: First-round Swiss matches were made by randomly pairing each team in the top half with a team from the bottom half.

Home and Visiting: 1st numbered team sits N/S in the open room, E/W in the closed room.

Tie-Breaks: At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If more than two teams are involved, the latest version of WBF Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.

In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.

Systems: No HUM or Brown Sticker methods are permitted in this event. However, pairs may prepare written defenses against a two-level opening bid in a minor that shows a weak two-bid in either major, with or without the option of strong hand types. These defenses are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention cards.

Length of Matches: 2 hours will be allotted for each 14-board segment (or 2 hours and 15 minutes for each 16-board segment of the KOs). In addition, a 5-minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per the latest version of WBF Conditions of Contest.

Appeals: The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C1c authority. Appeals found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.

Match Scoring: Bridgemate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.

KO Draw: The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4th-8th group. The team finishing 3rd will then have their choice of any one of the remaining teams. In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Security: No player may leave the playing area during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online Broadcast and the upload of the results of all matches in progress on the web.

Smoking: Once play in a qualifying-round match or a KO-round session starts, smoking is prohibited at ALL times (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), until the player completes the play of all boards in the match or session. (For those wishing to smoke at other times, smoking rooms are located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1st offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses; KO — 3 imps for the 1st offense, 10 imps for all subsequent offenses.

Screen Hesitations: When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the opposite side of the

screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the Director). In case of dispute the call from the wrong side will be ignored, but in situations where the wrong side calls or a late call is made and there is no dispute the Director may accept the fact of the delayed call.

Electronic Equipment: Any and all electronic equipment capable of receiving or transmitting information to/from outside the playing room (e.g., cell phones, personal computers, iPads and the like) must be turned off at all times from the beginning of a match/session until the player has completed all boards in the match/session and left the playing area. In KO rounds, mobile phones in the playing area are prohibited during game time. Players with mobile phones should surrender their phones to the staff at the service desk and receive a number tag which is used to collect the phone after the game. The Director may authorize exceptions in emergency situations. Penalties for violations are the same as for smoking violations.

Photography/BBO VuGraph: By entering the event, players (and kibitzers) agree to authorize still and/or video photography by the JCBL and also to appear on BBO VuGraph whenever requested by the Director.

WBF VP scale (14 boards)

IMPs	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost	IMPs	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost
0	10.00	10.00	29	16.88	3.12
1	10.33	9.67	30	17.04	2.96
2	10.66	9.34	31	17.19	2.81
3	10.97	9.03	32	17.34	2.66
4	11.28	8.72	33	17.49	2.51
5	11.58	8.42	34	17.63	2.37
6	11.87	8.13	35	17.77	2.23
7	12.16	7.84	36	17.91	2.09
8	12.44	7.56	37	18.04	1.96
9	12.71	7.29	38	18.17	1.83
10	12.97	7.03	39	18.29	1.71
11	13.23	6.77	40	18.41	1.59
12	13.48	6.52	41	18.53	1.47
13	13.72	6.28	42	18.65	1.35
14	13.96	6.04	43	18.76	1.24
15	14.19	5.81	44	18.87	1.13
16	14.42	5.58	45	18.98	1.02
17	14.64	5.36	46	19.08	0.92
18	14.85	5.15	47	19.18	0.82
19	15.06	4.94	48	19.28	0.72
20	15.26	4.74	49	19.38	0.62
21	15.46	4.54	50	19.47	0.53
22	15.66	4.34	51	19.56	0.44
23	15.85	4.15	52	19.65	0.35
24	16.03	3.97	53	19.74	0.26
25	16.21	3.79	54	19.83	0.17
26	16.38	3.62	55	19.91	0.09
27	16.55	3.45	56	19.99	0.01
28	16.72	3.28	57	20.00	0.00

The 19th NEC Cup Guest List

Konichi wa and welcome to the 19th NEC Bridge Festival. As always, two matches from every session of the NEC Cup will be on Bridge Base Online, the world's leading Online Bridge site (hi Fred, Sheri, Uday, and all), with live broadcasts starting with Round One: India (6) vs Sang ae (44) and Yeh Bros. Mixed (12) vs Iza Yokohama V (38). Plus, for the first time this year all match results will be available on the JCBL web site, updated on a real-time basis. As in past years, we're confident that not just the favorites will be playing for the championship come Saturday so if you start off poorly, keep your chin up, play with heart, and fight until the man from down under (the reverend Sir Grenside) calls you out. As always, we're thrilled to see the many foreign teams here (20 — more or less), and a special welcome to those attending the festival for the first time as well as to those back for the first time in a while. As always, it brings joy to our hearts to see so many friendly and familiar faces from around the bridge world. We're all family here.

The defenders are back, Team Russia (**Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnosselski, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink**). The two Russian pairs had come agonizingly close to winning this event twice prior to last year. They augmented their team with a Dutchman (Brink) and finally "flew" to victory. (But with two Dutchmen this year, who can say how well they will do?) Gromov-Dubinin lost in the semi-finals of the Spingold last summer teamed up with a pair of Poles and a pair of "expatriate" Italians. Let's see if lightning can strike twice in a row for them here in Yokohama where they've rejoined their countrymen and the Flying Dutchmen.

Team England/Denmark (**Paul Hackett, David Bakhshi, Lars Blakset, Thomas Larsen**) is composed of the peripatetic Papa Bear (who played here last year with Tom Hanlon and sons Justin and Jason) and David Bakhshi (who played here last year with David Gold on Team NEDUK, losing to the eventual NEC champions in the semis) along with a pair of newcomers to the NEC, Lars Blakset (a regular on Danish teams who missed out on two World Championship finals by losing the semifinals on the last board) and Thomas Larsen (whose team reached the final of last year's Danish Teams Championships). This may well be a team to reckon with. Welcome, gentlemen (and you, too, Paul).

The members of Team England Hinden (**Frances Hinden, Graham Osbourne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell**) are all newcomers to the NEC. Frances Hinden is, according to many people's reckoning, the strongest woman player in the UK who has never competed in the Women's game. She has won the British Gold Cup and Premier League in conjunction with her regular partner, Graham Osbourne. Alex Hydes and Mike Bell have had very impressive junior careers for England which include a host of successes in English domestic competitions. Welcome, and good luck.

The absence of China Women's teams in last year's NEC has been remedied this year by the more usual presence of two such teams. China Women 1 (**Wang Hongli, Lu Yan, Wang Wenfei, Ran Jingrong**) consists of three NEC veterans, a composite of members of the two China Women's teams from the 2012 NEC Cup, all past winners of this event, joined by newcomer Ran Jingrong. Lest anyone take this team lightly, they were also Venice Cup Bronze medalists in Bali last fall.

China Women 2 (**Zhang Yu, Wu Shaohong, Gan Ling, Huang Yan**) includes NEC veterans Zhang Yu (last here in 2011), Wu Shaohong (last here in 2012), Gan Ling (last here in 2010) and newcomer Huang Yan. Welcome, ladies, from both China Women's teams.

Team India (**Subhash Chandra Gupta, Sridharan Padmanabhan, Jyotindra Madhukar Shah, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sundaram Srinivasan, Gopal Venkatesh**) has much international experience (Padmanabhan, Shah, Srinivasan and Venkatesh were all members of India's Texan Aces Transnational team in Bali), though only Gupta has been to the NEC before. Welcome, gentlemen.

Last year's NEC Cup team Australia Youth is back, this time more aptly named simply Team Australia (**Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne**). The new name is consistent with the fact that Milne and Hollands are fresh from their win in the 2014 Australian National Open Teams while Howard and Hollands also represented Australia in both the pairs and teams competitions in the 3rd World Youth Open Bridge Championships last year in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Welcome back.

Team Down Under (**Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell**) includes three of the four members who won the NEC Cup two years ago, Peter Gill (Australia's quietest bridge player) having replaced Tony Nunn. (Actually, this team played five-handed here last year with both Gill and Nunn, but we couldn't resist the "quietest bridge player" jab.) Past performance makes this team a real threat. G'day, mates.

Team Bulgaria (**Valio Kovachev, Vladislav Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov**) has twice been the NEC Cup runner-up and a four-time semi-finalist, but has never managed to close the deal (last year they fell fewer than 6 VPs from qualifying for the KO stage, finishing 12th). Still, they figure to make another *bona fide* run for their unfulfilled quest this year and cannot be counted out. *Dobre doshal! Na dobří chas!*

The members of Team China - Shanghai (**Cao Jiankang, Chen Weiwang, Shen Qi, Zhou Lihua, Chen Jun, Fan Guangsheng**) are all newcomers to the NEC, but given the number of bridge players in China we'd bet that there are many currently-anonymous superstars just waiting for a chance to make their debut on the international stage. Remember, we warned you. *Ni hao, huan ying.*

The members of Team England Black (**Andrew Black, William Whittaker, Gunnar Hallberg, Derek Patterson**) may all be playing in this event for the first time, but Derek Patterson played on the England team that qualified for Bali, William Whittaker is a Scottish international and keen expert rubber player, and Gunnar Hallberg was on the English team that finished 4th in Maastricht in 2000 and on all the English Senior World Championship teams. So if Andrew Black is good enough for them, then he's good enough for us. Welcome.

Yeh Bros Mixed (**Yeh Chen (PC), Zhang Ya-Lan, Shih Jue-Yu, Wang Ping, Sun Ming, Patrick Huang**) includes Yeh Chen and Patrick Huang, who comprise the male component of "Mixed." The other four members rank among China's top woman players. All six players are NEC Cup veterans (with Shih Jue-Yu listed on last year's Yeh Bros team roster as JY Shih). *Ni hao, huan ying.*

The members of Team Beijing Trinergy (**Lu Dong, Li Xiaoyi, Kang Meng, Sun Shaolin, Wang Yanhong**) are all NEC Cup veterans, Kang Meng and Sun Shaolin last playing here on the China Open team in 2004 and the others on previous incarnations of the Trinergy team within the past three years. Good luck.

Team Lorentz (**Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Ashley Bach, Pablo Lambardi**) consists of two newcomers to the NEC (Burgess and Lorentz) and two veterans: Ashley Bach was a member of Oz Players in 2010 while Pablo Lambardi played as a member of Team South America in 2006. This quartet made up four of the six players who lost in the finals of the Australian national Open teams this year, and will no doubt be practicing their mastery of the 2-1 fit. Welcome and good luck, mates.

As far as we've been able to determine, all but one of the members of Team Dangoon (**Cho Eunjoo, Hwang Mansuk, Yim Hyun, Kwon Sooja**) are new to the NEC (Kwon Sooja played here on team Happy Bridge Korea in 2004, although it is possible that Yim Hyun played here before with the first name "Im" in 2006 or "Lim" in 2004). In any case, welcome and good luck.

Last year's Team Hammer is back intact, this time as Team Korea Hammer (**Chung Ilsub, Hwang lynryung, Yang Sungae, Sung Kyunghae**). Good luck.

Team Shanghai Financial BC (**Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Shan Baisong, Liu Ning, Xi Yuheng**) features a blend of Japanese and Chinese players. Furuta-Chen are quite familiar to NEC followers, and most recently were on the Japanese team in Bali last year that just failed to make the quarter-finals. The three Chinese members are all new to the festival. Welcome, and good luck.

Team STEAST (Katsumi Takahashi, Tadashi Yoshida, Lee Bokhee, Kim Yoonkyung, Park Jungyo, Sue Picus) comprises mostly NEC Cup veterans: Katsumi Takahashi and Tadashi Yoshida have played extensively on primarily all-Japanese teams (Tadashi was on the Japanese senior team in Bali last year) while Kim Yoonkyung and Park Jungyo were on last year's Korea/Japan collaboration. Sue Picus (aka "The Ringer") is herself a multiple Venice Cup Champion and most recently served as NPC for the US Venice Cup Champions in Bali last year. She has also played here before (in 2008). Only Lee Bokhee is new to the NEC. Welcome and *good luck* (for the sake of at least one of your editors).

Team Seoul (**Yasuhiro Shimizu, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Hiroki Yokoi, Oh Hyemin, Kim Hyeyoung**) returns

intact from last year's NEC. Welcome, enjoy, and good luck.

Circle The World (**Kyoko Shimamura, Russell H Samuel, Jens Rasmussen, Dick Shek**) clearly does just that. The local team member, Kyoko Shimamura, played here last year on the Japan Women team. Russ Samuel is from the US, Dick Shek is a top internationalist from Great Britain who now plays for Malaysia, and Jens Rasmussen is a top Norwegian player. The latter three are all newcomers to the NEC. A fond welcome to you all.

Team Harmony (**Natsuko Nishida, Kim Sun, Young Bae, In Soon, Choi An, Hee Choi, Eun Woo**) comprises mostly newcomers to the NEC. (Only Natsuko Nishida has played here before, most recently on last year's Japan Women team.) Welcome, and spread the joy that is your team name to all you encounter.

The top Japanese teams sport many familiar names, most notably members of Yamada, SARA and FOOTerZ. It has become almost *de rigueur* for one or more of the home teams to qualify for the NEC KO stage, but with several top Japanese players again on "visiting" teams this may present more of a challenge than usual.

So welcome to the 2014 NEC Bridge Festival. May all of your bids be inspired. May all of your plays be double-dummy, and may your fiercest competitors finish one place below you in the standings. Good luck to all.

NEC Bridge Festival Smoking Policy

NEC Cup:

See the Smoking section of the CoC (page 2).

Other events:

Once a session has started, and until the player has finished all boards in the session, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, which may be announced at the option of the Director.

Smoking areas:

Smoking is only permitted in the smoking rooms located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.

Penalties:

Penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director.

Alerts Behind Screens

When Alerting behind screens it is expected, given the language differences here, that players **write down** both the question and the answer. Players failing to do so may well jeopardize their rights when it comes to a Director's ruling or to any appeal that may follow.

Real-Time NEC Cup Match Updates on the Web

Wondering how your favorite team is doing RIGHT NOW? Surf to:

<http://jcbl.willnet.ad.jp/Global/t3dm2r8lxmetp4njh98/Top>

(And no, there will not be a quiz on this later)

Team Rosters: 19th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	England/Denmark: Paul Hackett, David Bakhshi, Lars Blakset, Thomas Larsen	
2	England Hinden: Frances Hinden, Graham Osbourne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell	
3	Russia: Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnoselskii, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink	
4	China Women 1: Wang Hongli, Lu Yan, Wang Wenfei, Ran Jingrong	
5	China Women 2: Zhang Yu, Wu Shaohong, Gan Ling, Huang Yan	
6	India: Subhash Chandra Gupta, Sridharan Padmanabhan, Jyotindra Madhukar Shah, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sundaram Srinivasan, Gopal Venkatesh	
7	Australia: Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne	
8	Down Under: Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell	
9	Bulgaria: Valio Kovachev, Vladislav Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov	
10	China - Shanghai: Cao Jiankang, Chen Weiwang, Shen Qi, Zhou Lihua, Chen Jun, Fan Guangsheng	
11	England Black: Andrew Black, William Whittaker, Gunnar Hallberg, Derek Patterson	
12	Yeh Bros Mixed: Yeh Chen (PC), Zhang Ya-Lan, Shih Jue-Yu, Wang Ping, Sun Ming, Patrick Huang	
13	Beijing Trinergy: Lu Dong, Li Xiaoyi, Kang Meng, Sun Shaolin, Wang Yanhong	
14	Lorentz: Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Ashley Bach, Pablo Lambardi	
15	Dangoon: Cho Eunjoo, Hwang Mansuk, Yim Hyun, Kwon Sooja	
16	Korea Hammer: Chung Ilsub, Hwang lynryung, Yang Sungae, Sung Kyunghae	
17	Shanghai Financial BC: Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Shan Baisong, Liu Ning, Xi Yuheng	
18	STEAST: Katsumi Takahashi, Tadashi Yoshida, Lee Bokhee, Kim Yoonkyung, Park Jungyoong, Sue Picus	
19	Seoul: Yasuhiro Shimizu, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Hiroki Yokoi, Oh Hyemin, Kim Hyeyoung	
20	Circle The World: Kyoko Shimamura, Russell H Samuel, Jens Rasmussen, Dick Shek	
21	Harmony: Natsuko Nishida, Kim Sun Young, Bae In Soon, Choi An Hee, Choi Eun Woo	
22	Japan Yamada: Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Masayuki Ino, Makoto Hirata, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata	
23	Japan SARA: Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Masaaki Takayama, Shugo Tanaka, Takeshi Niekawa, Ari Greenberg	
24	Japan FOOTerZ: Ryo Okuno, Akira Ohara, Fu Zhong, Zhang Shudi, Hideki Takano	
25	Japan Shiro Gumi: Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Motomi Shirogane, Etsuko Takano, Satoki Takizawa, Toshiro Yamaguchi	
26	Japan PYON: Yuki Fukuyoshi, Takeshi Hanayama, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Mariko Ueda	
27	Japan Kitty's: Yoko Nenohi, Kyoko Toyofuku, Yoshiko Sakaguchi, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho, Makiko Sato	
28	Japan ESPERANZA: Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Fumiko Kimura, Terumi Kubo, Minako Takahashi	
29	Japan IMAX: Shunsuke Morimura, Hiroya Abe, Tadashi Imakura, Masayuki Ohashi	
30	Japan NAITO: Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Ayako Miyakuni, Kenji Miyakuni	
31	Japan SUGIYAMA: Yasuko Sugiyama, Michiko Iwahashi, Akiko Yanagisawa, Yumiko Oda, Naoko Orihara, Kazuhiro Sugiyama	
32	Japan MIURA : Hiroaki Miura, Kazuko Takahashi, Sumiko Sugino, Yoshiko Endo	
33	Japan KATSUMATA : Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato, Takako Nakatani, Sachiko Ueda	
34	Japan Kacho-fugetsu: Akiko Miwa, Kunio Kodaira, Teruo Miyazaki, Makoto Nomura, Masako Otsuka, Takako Fujimoto	
35	Japan HOSHI: Masako Sakurai, Yukiko Hoshi, Junko Tsubaki, Megumi Takasaka	
36	Japan SAKURAI : Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Takehiko Tada	
37	Japan NANIWADA: Toshiro Nose, Masaru Naniwada, Hikoe Enomoto, Hisami Kataoka, Hideo Togawa, Junzo Kobayashi	
38	Japan Iza Yokohama V: Osami Kimura, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Setsuko Kimura, Harue Iemori, Chisato Kiriyama, Yoko Shimominami	
39	Japan Surfrider: Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito, Kei Nemoto, Junko Den, Yoshiko Murata, Atsuko Kurita	
40	Japan Youth: Tadahiro Kikuchi, Mizuki Ishibashi, Takumi Seshimo, Tomoaki Nakanishi, Hitoshi Tanabe, Rai Tanaka	
41	Japan LAS FLORES: Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Yoko Komuro, Shimako Yaji	
42	Japan River Side: Yumiko Kawakami, Masakatsu Sugino, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Hiroko Tanaka, Toshiharu Hirose, Noriko Yagi	
43	Japan Friends: Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Koichi Onishi, Taiko Bando, Sayori Harasawa, Mayumi Tanaka	
44	Japan Sang ae: Emi Sakata, Midori Ito, Sae Ohashi, Hisayo Goto, Kazumi Nitta	
45	Japan Lucky Corner: Ryo Matsubara, Takashi Sumita, Yoko Fukuyama, Ayako Matsubara, Mark LaForge, Timothy Curtis	
46	Japan KinKi: Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka	

1st-round match-ups: 1 v 24; 2 v 35; 3 v 39; 4 v 46; 5 v 40; 6 v 44; 7 v 43; 8 v 26; 9 v 29; 10 v 27; 11 v 25; 12 v 38;
13 v 33; 14 v 34; 15 v 31; 16 v 45; 17 v 28; 18 v 36; 19 v 37; 20 v 41; 21 v 32; 22 v 30; 23 v 42

**Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature India (6) vs Sang ae (44)
and Yeh Bros. Mixed (12) vs Iza Yokohama V (38)**

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

(An explanation for foreign players)

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

All side games at the NEC Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Asuka Cup)

Opening Bids

1. 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
2. 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
 - a) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
3. 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
 - a) at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
 - b) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - c) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
4. Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
5. Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
6. Opening 3NT bid indicating:
 - a) any solid suit or
 - b) a broken minor suit.
7. Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
8. Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

Responses and Rebids

1. 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
2. 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
3. Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
4. 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3rd- or 4th-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
5. Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
6. All responses to:
 - a) artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
 - b) opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

7. All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
8. Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
9. All calls after a natural notrump (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges, neither of which exceeds 3 HCP). No conventional responses are allowed over natural notrump bids with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP.

Competitive Bids

1. Any conventional balancing calls.
2. Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
3. Notrump overcall for either:
 - a) two-suited takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit. (At the 4 level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.)
 - b) three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
4. Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
5. Cuebid of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak, directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
6. Comic 1NT overcall.
7. Defense to:
 - a) conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
 - b) natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
 - c) opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
8. Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
9. Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

Carding

1. All leads and signaling methods are approved except for: a) odd-even signals, b) encrypted signals, c) dual-message carding strategies, except on each defender's first discard, d) any method when the pair using it are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo.

LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

The 2013 NEC Cup: Russia vs Mixed

Last year's top round-robin qualifier NEDUK chose eighth-place qualifier England as their quarter-final opponent. Second-place Russia chose seventh-place Australia Youth, third-place Mixed chose sixth-place Down Under, which left fourth-place Pharon to play fifth-place USA in the quarter-finals.

NEDUK took a 65-20 first-half lead over England and held off a 32-18 comeback to win 83-52. In the closest match of the day Russia led Australia Youth 53-35 at the half, then survived a 36-25 comeback to advance to the semi-finals 78-71. Mixed won both halves against Down Under by 5 (40-35; 43-38), advancing to the semi-finals 83-73. In the only "upset" of the quarter-finals USA won both halves against Pharon (45-14; 45-32) to win the match handily 90-46.

In one semi-final match Russia led higher-seed NEDUK 46-20 at the half, then survived a second-half comeback by NEDUK (17-21) to advance to the final 63-41. Mixed got off to a 17-imp halftime lead (62-45) versus USA and never looked back, taking the second half 65-28 and the match 127-73 to earn their place in the NEC Cup final.

The 2013 NEC Cup final pitted two teams (Russia: Gromov-Dubinin, Krasnosselski, Gladyshev-Brink; Mixed: Milner-Lall, Kwiecien-Pszczola, Auken-Welland), some of whose members were playing in their first NEC Cup. But both teams were made up entirely of veteran, world-class players.

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

In this set both E/W pairs were playing Standard methods. N/S for Russia played Precision with a 12-15 notrump (15-17 in 3-4). For Mixed N/S played Polish Club (but closer to 2/1 in non-club auctions).

Bd: 1	North
Dlr: North	♠ 9875
Vul: None	♥ 1097
	♦ 8
	♣ A10973

West	East
♠ 6	♠ AJ102
♥ AJ64	♥ KQ52
♦ J654	♦ KQ
♣ Q542	♣ J86
South	
♠ KQ43	
♥ 83	
♦ A109732	
♣ K	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass
(1) Diamonds plus a major			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladyshev	Kwiecien
	Pass	1NT	Dbl(1)
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♦
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Minor and a major			

The action started immediately. With both N/S pairs prepared to commit to playing 2♠ and both Easts prepared to up the ante, would West be able to stand the pressure? Brink wasn't, Milner was.

In 2♠x Milner led a trump to the nine and ace, and Lall played king and another heart. Milner tried to cash a third heart so declarer ruffed, played ace and another diamond, ruffed, came to the ♣K, led and passed the ♦10, and claimed eight tricks, losing three trumps and two hearts. There was no defense to 2♠x, even after a trump lead, since if East cashed two hearts and played a low spade declarer could survive going up with the king by taking the ruffing finesse in diamonds at the appropriate moment.

Given that result, the number of tricks taken in 3NT was almost irrelevant. Against 3NT Kwiecien led the ♠Q (a strong QJ or weak KQ suit) and Gladyshev took the ace as Pszczola followed with a descriptive ♠9. Declarer knocked out the ♣K and Kwiecien refused to play his partner for the precise spade spots he needed to set the game. A low spade back would have developed the extra tricks (and would have cost nothing since if partner didn't follow with the five he could change tack later). Kwiecien shifted to a heart and now declarer could set up diamonds, then knock out the ♣K and come home. That misdefense to a game only cost 4 imps (13 instead of 9) but we doubt that made Pszczola any happier; 13-0, Russia.

Bd: 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North	♠ A532
	♥ K103
	♦ Q10
	♣ KJ84

West	East
♠ J7	♠ KQ864
♥ A97	♥ QJ65
♦ J9875	♦ 3
♣ A95	♣ Q72

South	
♠ 109	
♥ 842	
♦ AK642	
♣ 1063	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
Pass	1♦(2+)	1♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
1NT		1♠	Pass

Gladysch's combination of opening 1♠ and passing 1NT seemed surprising but on a club lead Brink played low from dummy, won in hand, and set up spades. Pszczola won the third round and led a low club. Declarer put up the queen, then cashed out and wisely rejected the heart finesse.

Might Lall have doubled 2♦ if it hadn't been for the result on the first deal? Perhaps not with such poor defense. Against 2♠ Dubinin led a top diamond and shifted to a club. Gromov won his king and returned a diamond, ruffed by Lall, who played the ♠Q and a spade to the jack, both ducked. Now Lall changed tack, winning the ♣Q, ♣A, ruffing a diamond, going to the ♥A, then ruffing another diamond to score five trump tricks, two clubs, and one heart for +110 and 1 imp. 13-1, Russia.

Bd: 3
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North	♠ KQ762
	♥ 9
	♦ 1072
	♣ 10983

West	East
♠ J109843	♠ 5
♥ Q1043	♥ KJ75
♦ K9	♦ AQ6
♣ J	♣ AK762

South	
♠ A	
♥ A862	
♦ J8543	
♣ Q54	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Rdbl
2♥	All Pass		Pass

After opening 1♠ in third seat Pszczola rated to have been very happy to hear his opponents stop in 2♥ — till he came to score up. 4♥ looks easy enough, even after ace and another trump (five trumps and five minor-suit winners). Brink played 2♥ very carefully to protect against bad breaks and did not score one of the top clubs, so he emerged with +140. But that was still worth 8 imps when Lall's precipitous leap to 3NT saw him land in an inelegant spot. The defenders led the ♠A and shifted to hearts, but declarer did not have time to establish a spade or a club before the defenders could collect five tricks.

E/W continued to have problems on the next deal.

Bd: 4
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

North	♠ J
	♥ KQJ52
	♦ K42
	♣ KJ85

West	East
♠ 1052	♠ AK98
♥ 1098763	♥ A4
♦ 876	♦ 1095
♣ 7	♣ Q1043

South	
♠ Q7643	
♥ ---	
♦ AQJ3	
♣ A962	

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Rdbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl

All Pass

The (almost identical) defenses in each room were both professional and elegant. North led a trump, won the first club, led the ♥K to ruff out the ace, and South then shifted to a low trump. Declarer ruffed a club for his third trick and tried to score both of

dummy's trumps, but South was able to discard his losers on the run of the hearts and be poised over dummy at trick 12 with the ♠Q7 when North led a plain card through the ♠K9. Very nicely done; no swing at 800.

Bd: 5	North
Dlr: North	♠ K8642
Vul: N/S	♥ A
	♦ A2
	♣ KQJ96
West	East
♠ Q107	♠ J95
♥ KJ5	♥ Q1087
♦ Q754	♦ KJ109
♣ A87	♣ 105
South	
♠ A3	
♥ 96432	
♦ 863	
♣ 432	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♦(R)
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
All Pass			
(1) GF ♠+♣/♥			

4♠ wasn't the worst contract we've ever seen, but if we'd been doubled there we would not have been happy campers. Pszczola showed a game-forcing two-suiter and Kwiecien, knowing he was facing spades and clubs and that he had no red-suit tricks, judged not to pass 3NT, leaving Pepsi to bring home the bacon in 4♠. With both spades and clubs behaving there was no defense to the game, but 5♣ might have had as many chances and been able to survive the occasional bad break. 2♣ made +150 and Mixed gained 9 imps, to trail 21-10.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ AJ7
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ10
	♦ 9
	♣ J87542
West	East
♠ 8532	♠ KQ964
♥ 52	♥ A74
♦ K10876	♦ Q42
♣ A9	♣ KQ
South	
♠ 10	
♥ K9863	
♦ AJ53	
♣ 1063	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
		1NT	2♦(♦+M)
Pass	2♦(p/c)	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Against 4♠ the defenders led clubs. Declarer won in dummy, led a trump to hand, then ducked a heart. Pszczola won and took his diamond ruff for down one; +100. A good result? Yes, but Dubinin's overcall to show diamonds and a major worked spectacularly well and silenced both West and East (though maybe East should have risked 2♠ over the non-forcing 2♦). Lall led the ♣K and Milner overtook and continued the suit. Gromov won the ♠K shift with the ace and a few seconds later claimed +170. Easy game, bridge. That was 2 imps to Russia, ahead now 23-10.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ A
Vul: Both	♥ AQ42
	♦ 9875
	♣ 6432
West	East
♠ Q2	♠ J10987654
♥ 106	♥ 9853
♦ AKQJ63	♦ 4
♣ K75	♣ ---
South	
♠ K3	
♥ KJ7	
♦ 102	
♣ AQJ1098	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
		2♣	
2♦	Dbl	2♠	3♣
3NT	4♣	Pass	5♣
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
		1♣	
1NT	Dbl	4♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Dubinin lost the first two diamond tricks in 5♣x. He ruffed the third diamond, laid down the ♣A and was down one. In 4♣x Gladysch bought a somewhat worse dummy than he might have expected. He won the

diamond lead and cashed two more, pitching hearts, as Pszczola followed with the 9, 8 and 5. Kwiecien ruffed the third round and needed to play the ♠K and a heart for his partner to lead the fourth diamond. Was it possible that declarer was 7-2-1-3 with a near Yarborough? Probably not (and Pszczola would surely not have played his diamonds in that order had that been the case). In any case, Kwiecien next played the ♣A. Declarer ruffed and played a trump to escape for down one. This only cost 3 imps (a net +400 instead of +700) but that could hardly have made Pszczola feel better about it; 23-20, Russia.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ AJ87
Vul: None	♥ 8 ♦ J953 ♣ KQJ3
West	East
♠ K92	♠ Q63
♥ KQJ5432	♥ A7
♦ AK10	♦ Q86
♣ ---	♣ A10862
South	
♠ 1054	
♥ 1096	
♦ 742	
♣ 9754	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
1♥	Dbl	Rdbl	1♣
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysh	Kwiecien
1♥	Dbl	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Both Wests deserved more than a measure of blame for not reaching this extremely hard slam. But just because it is hard to reach is no reason to abnegate responsibility for trying to reach it. Gladysch's 3NT was intended to suggest scattered honors and moderate heart tolerance. Our best guess as West would have been to blast 6♥, but a more moderate 5♥ bid might have gotten him there while a void-showing 5♣ probably would not. In the other room Milner might have jumped to 4♣ (BR says he would play 5♣ here as exclusion and 4♣ as shortness, typically a singleton, not a void). It would still be hard, the hands fit so perfectly. No swing; 23-20, Russia.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ A4
Vul: E/W	♥ Q1087 ♦ KJ952 ♣ 43
West	East
♠ J1082	♠ K5
♥ KJ65	♥ 432
♦ 64	♦ AQ3
♣ KQ8	♣ A10952
South	
♠ Q9763	
♥ A9	
♦ 1087	
♣ J76	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysh	Kwiecien
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dbl	Rdbl	2♣	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Gladysch's 2♣ bid was somewhat surprising here (his hand looks like a 1NT rebid to us). Brink raised to 3♣ with something in hand, and there the matter rested. After a spade to the ace and a diamond shift declarer finessed, drew two rounds of trumps, ruffed his diamond loser, then came to the ♠K and drew the last trump. At this point the finesse for the ♥K looked rather like a sure thing but declarer led a heart to the jack and scored +130. In the other room Lall got a spade lead followed by a low diamond shift (when the ♦J might have given declarer a more interesting problem). Declarer ducked this to South, won the diamond continuation and set up a long spade for his ninth trick and 1 imp, making it 23-21, Russia.

This next deal was flat, but Russia arguably had the edge in the auction.

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ 82
Vul: Both	♥ A9874 ♦ 92 ♣ KQ97
West	East
♠ K103	♠ QJ64
♥ J5	♥ K3
♦ QJ765	♦ AK108
♣ J83	♣ A54
South	
♠ A975	
♥ Q1062	
♦ 43	
♣ 1062	

3NT was the contract at both tables but Lall got there via Stayman, which tipped off South that dummy held spades. In the other room Kwiecien had to choose between the majors on a blind lead. A heart seems like the expert choice, and equally it is routine technique for South to unblock the ♦Q under the king, as duly happened at both tables. No swing. We note, though, that it is said that there is no such thing as a foolproof defense; if you find one, nature will invent a better fool.

Bd: 11 North
Dlr: South ♠ QJ4
Vul: None ♡ AKJ5
 ♦ J109
 ♣ A73

West	East
♠ K8	♠ A109762
♡ Q9	♡ 84
♦ AK832	♦ 75
♣ 9654	♣ J108
South	
♠ 53	
♡ 107632	
♦ Q64	
♣ KQ2	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	2♠(Weak)	Dbl
3♡	Dbl	4♦	Pass
4♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	2♠(Weak)	3♡
3♠	4♡	All Pass	

Milner's improvised 3♡ bid was intended as a spade raise (a simple 3♠ might have better described his values and been less likely to cause confusion). It worked well to keep his opponents from doubling 4♣, but both Mixed partnerships had done way too much in the auction (though South looks blameless) and 6 imps was cheap at the price when 4♣ lost the obvious six tricks while 4♡ escaped for down two when the defense couldn't find the trump promotion after three rounds of diamonds; now 29-21, Russia.

Note: pushing the elevator button more than once does NOT make it arrive any faster.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ A
Vul: N/S	♡ 76432
	♦ K8763
	♣ A8
West	East
♠ 10965	♠ J
♡ Q10	♡ AKJ85
♦ 954	♦ AQJ10
♣ K1065	♣ 974
South	
♠ KQ87432	
♡ 9	
♦ 2	
♣ QJ32	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Kwiecien went after the vulnerable game while Dubinin allowed discretion to rule him and he was absolutely right — this time. With spades 4-1 and the ♦A badly placed, eight tricks were the limit for N/S in spades. Gladysch led a diamond (ducked in dummy) to Brink for the trump shift. When the 4-1 trump break came to light, declarer needed a minor miracle in trumps, which was not forthcoming. Since 2♣ made eight tricks on a club lead without any special problems, Russia had another 5 imps to lead 34-21.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ 63
Vul: Both	♡ Q1052
	♦ A1096
	♣ J102
West	East
♠ KQJ52	♠ A98
♡ 3	♡ AJ84
♦ KQ87	♦ 32
♣ K84	♣ AQ96
South	
♠ 1074	
♡ K976	
♦ J54	
♣ 753	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
		Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
		Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Milner's sequence was efficient and well thought out; Gladysch's...not so much. Slam was not laydown for E/W but on a trump lead, for example, even if the ♦A is offside declarer can still hope to survive any time clubs behave or there is a minor-suit squeeze (we estimate this at around 75 percent). In fact, after a heart lead declarer played on diamonds, got a trump shift to the nine, ten and jack, ruffed two diamonds in hand, and did not need any suit to break. That was 13 imps to Mixed, leveling the match at 34-34.

On the next deal you might decide which red suit you would lead as West against 3NT after South opens 1NT and North's Stayman inquiry comes up empty.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q72
Vul: None	♥ 9732
	♦ J10
	♣ AK83
West	East
♠ J4	♠ 98653
♥ J864	♥ A10
♦ Q987	♦ A43
♣ 1064	♣ Q97
South	
♠ AK10	
♥ KQ5	
♦ K652	
♣ J52	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
		Pass	1♣(16+)
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Brink led a diamond to the ace, scored the queen on a diamond back, then helpfully shifted to a heart. Gladysch won the ace and went back to diamonds, squeezing dummy. Kwiecien guessed to pitch a club and then tested the hearts, getting the bad news. Since it was no longer possible to establish the fourth club, Kwiecien needed to drop the ♣Q or endplay one of his opponents to lead away from it, which as the cards lie did not work. Down one.

The club pitch from dummy at trick 4 rated to be anti-percentage if West's heart shift was more likely to be from jack-fourth than jack-third, which makes a heart discard a better bet. But in any case, declarer could have preserved all of his options by pitching a spade, then trying to duck a club to East, which would have worked as the cards lie. Plus, even if East had won the club and returned a spade declarer could still have come home if either rounded suit broke 3-3.

In the Open Room Gromov was in even worse shape on a spade lead. He rose king and ingeniously led a diamond to his jack, which held. Next he played a heart up, returned to hand in clubs, and led a second heart up. When Lall won to play a second spade Gromov won in dummy, ducked a club, and had nine tricks. An extremely well-earned 10 imps, making it 44-34, Russia.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ AK9
Vul: N/S	♥ 87
	♦ J98752
	♣ K9
West	East
♠ 8765	♠ Q42
♥ 105	♥ K642
♦ A3	♦ Q4
♣ QJ832	♣ A764
South	
♠ J103	
♥ AQJ93	
♦ K106	
♣ 105	

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
		1♥	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣(2+)
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Both tables maneuvered their way to 2NT when a diamond partial would have been easier. Both Easts led a spade. The declarers won in hand and played on diamonds, Gromov leading a diamond to the king, Pszczola leading the ♦J in case East wanted to

cover. When Gladysch yielded to temptation Pszczola had cleared the first hurdle, but the defenders could still cash out the clubs for one down. Nonetheless, a 3-imp pick-up for Mixed closed the gap to 37-44.

Bd: 16 North
Dlr: West ♠ K54
Vul: E/W ♥ 106
 ♦ Q106
 ♣ Q10874

West	East
♠ 97	♠ AQ8632
♥ AQJ52	♥ 43
♦ K542	♦ 873
♣ J2	♣ 65
South	
♠ J10	
♥ K987	
♦ AJ9	
♣ AK93	

Open Room
West North East South
Milner *Gromov* *Lall* *Dubinin*
1♥ Pass 1♠ 1NT
All Pass
Closed Room
West North East South
Brink *Pszczola* *Gladysch* *Kwiecien*
1♥ Pass 1♠ 1NT
Pass 3NT All Pass

Kwiecien's 3NT was a heavy favorite on the ♥Q lead: he needed either the diamond finesse to work or one of the spade honors to be with the opening bidder, plus a good guess. But all three cards were wrong and the defenders had no trouble cashing out. That was worth 4 imps to Russia when Milner led a spade against 1NT and Lall ducked, leaving declarer to cash his seven winners to come home. The set ended with Russia leading by 11, 48-37.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

The action picked up right where it had left off.

Bd: 17 North
Dlr: North ♠ A54
Vul: None ♥ 4
 ♦ AJ73
 ♣ AQ843

West	East
♠ J109	♠ K86
♥ AJ9875	♥ K1063
♦ 85	♦ 1092
♣ K10	♣ J95
South	
♠ Q732	
♥ Q2	
♦ KQ64	
♣ 762	

Open Room
West North East South
Kwiecien *Gromov* *Pszczola* *Dubinin*
1♦(1) Dbl(2) Pass 1♠
2♥ Dbl 3♥ Pass
Pass Dbl Rdbl 4♦

All Pass
(1) Precision
(2) Support
Closed Room
West North East South
Brink *Auken* *Gladysch* *Welland*
1♣ Rdbl(1) Pass 1♥(♠)
Dbl Pass 3NT
All Pass
(1) Support (3 spades plus extra values)

Welland's 3NT seems to have suggested a balanced hand with only four spades, enough values for game opposite extras, but not necessarily a full heart stopper — or he may have simply been "operating." Why he did not cue-bid 2♥ along the way to see if partner liked notrump we may never know. (Perhaps so as not to wrong-side the contract if North had ♥Ax(x).) In any case, this was not N/S's finest hour. When Brink led a heart the defense cashed their six tricks there and switched to a spade. Welland rose with the ace and, having pitched all clubs on the hearts so that a club finesse was no longer possible, claimed only six tricks for -150. Of course -150 versus -100 could never make or break the match. Besides, we have it on good authority that no one has ever lost a KO match by 1 imp.

N/S's actions in the Open Room appear reasonable. With the ♠K onside with the suit three-three, trumps three-two, and the club finesse working, 4♦ was cold. But for the very same reasons, 3♥x was going for -300 (and if any one of those things failed to happen 4♦ was going down one but 3♥x was still going for -100). Pszczola ("Pepsi" from now on) led a heart and Kwiecien ("Quicken" from now on) switched to the ♣K. Gromov won and tested trumps, drawing the third round when the suit broke three-two, then ducked a club and claimed; +130. That was 7 imps to Russia, increasing their lead to 18 at 55-37.

Bd: 18 North
Dlr: East ♠ J10762
Vul: N/S ♥ ---
 ♦ QJ65
 ♣ J1084

West	East
♠ K3	♠ AQ54
♥ KQ109873	♥ J2
♦ A8	♦ 7432
♣ K3	♣ AQ2
South	
♠ 98	
♥ A654	
♦ K109	
♣ 9765	

Both E/W pairs reached the cold 6♦ contract here and scored it up for a pair of 980s.

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 1094	
Vul: E/W	♥ 1075	
	♦ AJ7	
	♣ KQ92	
West	East	
♠ QJ872	♠ 3	
♥ AQJ9	♥ K2	
♦ Q65	♦ 109432	
♣ 6	♣ AJ1043	
South		
♠ AK65		
♥ 8643		
♦ K8		
♣ 875		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin
		Pass	
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Gladysch	Welland
		1♣	
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The Poles had a natural auction in the Open Room to settle in their four-two fit, as would most Standard bidders. Gromov led the ♣K to the ace and Quicken led a spade up, preparing to ruff spades in dummy. Dubinin rose with the king and switched to the ♦K, the defense taking three tricks there before exiting with the ♥10. Quicken won the jack in hand, drew trumps, and got out with the ♠Q, but had to lose a club as well for down one, -100.

Welland's 1♣ opening would not be everyone's choice with those cards but somehow he emerged smelling of roses. Brink led the ♠2. When Welland called for the ten from dummy and it held he was well on his way to a plus score. He got out with a heart to Gladysch's king and the ♣10 came back, presenting him with another free trick for the cause. Welland won and continued the heart attack, this time Brink cashing his winners there before exiting with the ♠Q. Welland tried a club and when Brink showed out ducked it to Gladysch, who cashed the ♣A allowing Welland to claim the rest; +90 for a push. Whoa!

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ 10983
Vul: Both	♥ 85
	♦ 9875
	♣ Q94

West	East
♠ KQ72	♠ J64
♥ J1062	♥ K74
♦ Q	♦ AKJ42
♣ 10862	♣ K7
South	
♠ A5	
♥ AQ93	
♦ 1063	
♣ AJ53	

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin
Brink	Auken	Gladysch	Welland
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

When our partners open 1NT and we hold a hand like West's here our partners never hold a four-card major either. There oughta be a law! In the Open Room Dubinin led a club to the two, nine and king, and Pepsi unblocked the ♦Q, then led a spade to the jack. Dubinin won the ace and got out with a spade to dummy's king. Next Pepsi tried to get to his hand with a heart, but the king lost to the ace. The defense then cashed three clubs and the ♥Q, then tucked declarer in dummy where he had to lose another spade; down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Welland led the ♦10. Gladysch let the queen hold in dummy and tried to return to hand with a spade to the jack. Welland won and led back a spade. Gladysch won the king, cashed the queen, and when the suit failed to split called for the ♥J and let it ride. Welland ducked smoothly and Gladysch led a second heart to the king. Now Welland won, cashed the ♥Q, and got out with a third heart to dummy's ten. Finally Gladysch tried the third arrow in his quiver and played a club to the king, but Welland won the ace and led a club to Auken's queen. She cashed the ♠10 and played a club to Welland's jack for down one, -100, and 3 more imps to Russia, leading now 58-37.

To this point Mixed had not scored a single imp in the second quarter, but that was about to change.

Bd: 21
Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ QJ865
♥ KQ1082
♦ 10
♣ 52

West
♠ ---
♥ J765
♦ J9532
♣ KJ64

South
♠ 10932
♥ A943
♦ K864
♣ Q

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♣	3♣
5♣	5♣	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Aukem</i>	<i>Gladysch</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

The Russians found the pre-save in 5♠ against the cold 6♣ so they were in decent shape, provided their teammates bid slam in the other room. Pepsi led ace and a club and Gromov ruffed to play trumps. Pepsi won, cashed the ♦A, and continued the club attack. Gromov ruffed in dummy, pitching a heart from hand, then played the ♠10. Pepsi ducked, leaving Gromov in dummy with the unenviable choice of either playing a heart to hand, allowing Pepsi to score a low trump, or ruffing a diamond and reducing himself to Pepsi's length and risk getting tapped out. He opted for the former and ended up three down, -800.

Unfortunately for the Russians, Brink-Gladysch were not up to reaching the club slam in the Closed Room (5♣ seems like a serious underbid when as little as ♣xx ♥xxxx ♦Jxx ♣Kxxx opposite would make 6♣ cold). Gladysch scored up +420 to bring Mixed 9 imps closer at 58-46.

Bd: 22
Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

North
♠ KQ8632
♥ K865
♦ 75
♣ 10

West
♠ 74
♥ AJ
♦ A3
♣ AKQJ832

South
♠ J5
♥ 104
♦ J109642
♣ 764

East
♠ A109
♥ Q9732
♦ KQ8
♣ 95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
		3♣	Pass
		5♣	Pass
		5♥	Pass
		6♦	Pass
		6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Aukem</i>	<i>Gladysch</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		1♥	2♦
		3♣	Pass
		6♣	All Pass

We don't pretend to know what all of the Poles' bids mean in the Open Room beyond the third round of the auction, but clearly bidding a grand slam on a finesse (for the ♥K), especially when the opponent who bid against you is sitting offside, is not one of the great ideas of our times. Sure enough, there was no successful squeeze position (South could guard the second round of spades and declarer could not ruff a spade, after pitching one on the third diamond, to isolate the spade menace with North, without using his entry to the spade threat in dummy) and the heart finesse was off. Down one, -100.

The Closed Room auction looks transcendental to us, specifically Brink's leap to 6♣, when he could easily have been off two cashing spades. But in the final analysis it is difficult to argue with success and +1370 surely qualifies on those grounds. That was 16 imps back to Mother Russia, now leading 74-46.

Bd: 23
Dlr: South
Vul: Both

North	♠ 943
♥ AQJ6	♦ K8762
♣ 7	
West	East
♠ J85	♠ KQ10762
♥ 843	♥ 1092
♦ J104	♦ 3
♣ KJ102	♣ 543
South	
♠ A	
♥ K75	
♦ AQ95	
♣ AQ986	

Both N/S pairs conducted lengthy auctions to reach the good 7♦ and scored it up for a push. Then...

Bd: 24 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q
 Vul: None ♥ 543
 ♦ K95432
 ♣ K62

West	East
♠ J863	♠ A109
♥ 1062	♥ J87
♦ J7	♦ AQ108
♣ AJ98	♣ Q103
South	
♠ K7542	
♥ AKQ9	
♦ 6	
♣ 754	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin

Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	1♠
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Pass	2♦	All Pass	
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(1) Clubs or minimum balanced

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Gladysch	Welland

Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
------	------	----	-----

1♠	3♦	All Pass	
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In the Closed Room Gladysch could not have been unhappy to hear his best suit bid on his right at the three level and to get to defend there. He led the ace and another spade, Auken pitching a club, followed by a trump to the king and ace. Gladysch switched to a heart. Auken won and cashed four hearts to pitch a club before playing any more trumps. That allowed Brink to ruff in with the short trump hand and now the contract was down three, -150.

In the Open Room Gromov played a level lower and two tricks better. Pepsi led a heart. Gromov won and led a spade to the queen and ace. Now Pepsi switched to a club to the ace and Quicken returned a club. Gromov won the king, crossed to a top heart, pitched his last club on the ♠K, ruffed a spade, led his third heart to dummy, happy to see the suit break evenly, ruffed a club and got out with a low diamond. Quicken overtook the ♦8 with the jack and returned a diamond but Gromov covered with the nine and Pepsi was endplayed to concede a diamond to Gromov's king; +90. Very nicely done, Mr. Gromov. That was 6 more imps to Russia, whose lead was now 34 at 80-46.

Ever wonder why glue doesn't stick to the inside of the bottle? Hmm...

Bd: 25 North
 Dlr: North ♠ KQ2
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKJ10
 ♦ A1053
 ♣ KQ

West	East
♠ J97653	♠ 1084
♥ 75	♥ Q942
♦ 86	♦ 42
♣ A105	♣ J732
South	
♠ A	
♥ 863	
♦ KQJ97	
♣ 9864	

This was another slam hand (6♦) bid at both tables for a pair of 920s.

Bd: 26 North
 Dlr: East ♠ J862
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ1063
 ♦ AQJ
 ♣ Q

West	East
♠ K973	♠ A4
♥ J82	♥ K754
♦ 432	♦ 8765
♣ 1093	♣ A52
South	
♠ Q105	
♥ 9	
♦ K109	
♣ KJ8764	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin

Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
------	------	------	------

Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	2♣(1)
------	---------	------	-------

Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
------	----	------	----

Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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(1) NAT, positive

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Gladysch	Welland

Pass	1♣(1)	1♣(1)	2♣
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Pass	3NT	All Pass	
------	-----	----------	--

(1) 2+ clubs, Polish style

Philosophical/rhetorical question: If two 1♣ auctions diverge in the forest, do they both lead to 3NT? There are several possible lines of play for declarer in 3NT, depending on the opening lead and several other considerations. Both editors said they would go after clubs first (see, lightning can strike twice at the same bridge event) and Gromov did so. He won the opening diamond lead with the queen, led the ♣Q,

ducked, then played a spade up. Pepsi flew ace and switched to...a heart, which certainly did not paralyze Gromov with fear. A second spade went to the queen and king and back came the ♦8, 10, K, ♣6. Now Pepsi inexplicably returned the ♦7, giving up his second heart trick. Gromov must have smiled (at least internally) as he claimed 10 tricks; +630.

Apparently Auken-Welland play natural 2♠ cue-bids over Polish-style 1♣ openings, an agreement that is in the minority in RC's opinion, though not in BR's. With hearts an unbid suit Gladys could be excused for leading one. Auken won the jack with the queen, tabled the ♣Q, ducked, and led a low spade up. When Gladys followed low Brink won the queen with the king and returned the ♦8 to the ten and king, and as happened at the other table Gladys played back the ♦7, giving Auken four tricks in the suit. Next Auken led another spade up. Gladys won force and now cashed the ♣A for the defense's fourth and last trick. Auken claimed the rest, +600. That was 1 more imp to Russia, now leading 81-46.

Bd: 27 North
 Dlr: South ♠ AK5
 Vul: None ♡ QJ52
 ◊ KQ6
 ♣ 972

West	East
♠ J74	♠ Q63
♡ A83	♡ 10964
◊ A9754	◊ 82
♣ A6	♣ 8543
South	
♠ 10982	
♡ K7	
◊ J103	
♣ KQJ10	

Open Room
 West North East South
 Kwiecien Gromov Pszczola Dubinin
 1♦ 1NT Pass 3NT
 All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Brink Auken Gladys Welland
 1♦ 3NT All Pass

Has anyone else noticed that Welland seems to bid a lot? (Yes, we do realize that he only does so at his own turn.) If you held Auken's hand would you be surprised to learn that if an opponent held the ace-third of clubs dummy would contribute just two tricks to your cause? Would you be surprised to learn that you have no play for the contract on the expected

diamond lead? Inquiring minds want to know. Gladys led the ♦8 and Auken overtook dummy's jack with the queen to play a club to the ten and ace. Brink exited with a low diamond, ducked to dummy, and now Auken had only one play for the contract: ♠QJx onside. She called for the ♠10 and passed it. Gladys won the queen, played a heart to the ace, and Brink cashed out for down two, -100.

The auction in the Closed Room felt more acceptable despite the fact that the contract was no more viable than in the other room. The defense went much the same way too and Gromov ended up in dummy after winning the third diamond and called for the ♠10. But he rose with the ace when Quicken followed low, perhaps thinking Pepsi was more likely to hold queen-jack doubleton than Quicken was to duck the ♠10 in tempo holding both spade honors (or perhaps he just wanted to save an undertrick, which in fact he did). After winning the ♠A Gromov played a heart to the king and Quicken cashed out for down one, the defense not getting the spade trick they took in the Open Room. So -50 brought another 2 imps to the Russians, who led now by 37, 83-46.

Both E/W pairs bid and made 3♣ on Board 28, then both N/S pairs bid and made 4♠ on Board 29.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ ---
Vul: None	♡ K1063
	◊ AKQ1093
	♣ J94
West	East
♠ 109652	♠ KQ83
♡ J82	♡ AQ975
◊ 852	◊ ---
♣ 65	♣ 10872
South	
♠ AJ74	
♡ 4	
◊ J764	
♣ AKQ3	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin
1♥			Dbl
2♦	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Gladys	Welland
1♥			Dbl
Rdbl	5♦	All Pass	

When the Russians in the Open Room blasted blindly into 3NT (isn't that the bid everyone would make over 2♦ with the North cards?) the Mixers had

a chance to make a significant dent in the Russian lead. Pepsi led a low heart and Gromov threw his cards on the table, claiming twelve tricks for +490. Ugh and double-ugh.

Brink, in the Closed Room, found the perfect time to make a psychic redouble. Still, there has to be a better bid than 5♦ with the North cards since the hand is just too strong in both high cards and playing strength. An opportunity wasted. Auken claimed twelve tricks on the lead of the ♠A without breaking a sweat ...err, sorry, without perspiring (women don't sweat, we're told); +420. That was another 2 imps to Russia, to lead 85-46, instead of 10 imps to Mixed.

Both E/W pairs played 4♠ on Board 31 and made an overtrick when they both dropped the singleton ♠K offside missing two trumps. Last chance for Mixed to gain a swing in this set.

Bd: 32	North
Dlr: West	♠ J73
Vul: E/W	♥ Q75
	♦ 96
	♣ KQJ62
West	East
♠ K	♠ A108654
♥ 963	♥ AJ82
♦ A10743	♦ KJ2
♣ 10875	♣ ---
South	
♠ Q92	
♥ K104	
♦ Q85	
♣ A943	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Gladysh	Welland
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	Dbl	3♣
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

It is hard to find fault with Dubinin's diamond lead against 2♥ in the Open Room but it could hardly have turned out worse. Pepsi won in hand, cashed the ♠K, crossed to the ♦K, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, then cashed the ♦A. Gromov ruffed with the ♥Q and played the ♠K. Pepsi ruffed and played a spade. Gromov ruffed and led a heart, ducked to the ten, and Dubinin switched back to the ♣A. Pepsi could only score his last two trumps but that was good enough for eight tricks (at the time BBO had

declarer claiming nine tricks, but that just does not seem possible); +110 (or +140).

In the Closed Room Brink-Gladysht sailed into 5♦ (East's final bounce appearing Tigger-like). Brink ruffed the ♣K lead, came to hand with the ♠K, ruffed another club, cashed the ♦K, pitched a third club on the ♠A, ruffed a spade, then played ace and a diamond. The defense could now cash a club but that was it; +600. 10 more imps to Russia, who took a commanding lead at the half, 95-46.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

For anyone who wonders how the modern game differs from the way we oldies used to play, the first board of the set demonstrated that if Ely Culbertson were alive he would be turning over in his grave. 2.5 honor tricks? We don't need no stinkin' honor tricks!

Bd: 33	North
Dlr: North	♠ 98
Vul: None	♥ AJ1092
	♦ Q10
	♣ K1092
West	East
♠ AK3	♠ 542
♥ 43	♥ K8765
♦ A762	♦ 53
♣ QJ63	♣ A87
South	
♠ QJ1076	
♥ Q	
♦ KJ984	
♣ 54	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
	1♥	Pass	1♠(R)
Pass	1NT(♣)	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

Gromov played 2♣ on a diamond lead, ducked. He played the ♥A and ran ♥J successfully (good), but when he took a second ruffing finesse West overruffed and played back a low trump to the king and ace. After a diamond to the ace Milner accurately cashed one trump and two spades before leading another diamond. Gromov discarded and Lall ruffed, cashed the ♥K, and the defenders still had a trump to come for down four, -200.

In the other room the defenders cashed their spades and ♦A, then played a second diamond. Welland scored a diamond, a spade, a heart and a ruff and eventually the ♣K for down three; 2 imps to Mixed the hard way. They trailed 95-48.

Bd: 34 North
 Dlr: East ♠ A
 Vul: N/S ♥ 4
 ♦ 765432
 ♣ K8762

West	East
♠ KQJ98	♠ 7432
♥ KQ95	♥ AJ63
♦ J10	♦ AK
♣ A4	♣ Q103
South	
♠ 1065	
♥ 10872	
♦ Q98	
♣ J95	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣(♥)	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Closed Room auction appears to have been due to West thinking transfers applied after the 1NT rebid and East thinking bids were natural. Winning 11 imps for such an action is somewhat fortunate, wouldn't you say? Mind you, Lall had his chance to make 6♥ after a trump lead but naturally enough declined to play North for two singletons in the majors, the spade singleton being the ace, to achieve an endplay where he would have had to guess clubs. Instead he drew two trumps, found the bad break, then tried to pass the ♣Q. (Note to foreign players: Chinese finesses do not work in Japan.) North cashed out and then, according to the VuGraph operator, at the end of the hand when Lall had conceded one down he could not resist showing his hand to declarer.

Bd: 35 North
 Dlr: South ♠ Q75
 Vul: E/W ♥ ---
 ♦ AQ8764
 ♣ J932

West	East
♠ 83	♠ K64
♥ K842	♥ QJ106
♦ K52	♦ 1093
♣ A1087	♣ Q64
South	
♠ AJ1092	
♥ A9753	
♦ J	
♣ K5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣

All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
			1♠
Pass	2♥(♣)	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Brink found the testing trump lead against 4♣. Welland won cheaply in hand and advanced the ♦J. Brink ducked smoothly but declarer let it run, then crossruffed diamonds and hearts for the next five tricks and then led the fourth diamond to pitch his last heart. West was forced to ruff and could only exit with his last heart. Declarer ruffed, his eighth trick, then exited with the ♣K, forcing the defenders to take their two club winners but then lead a trump at the end to allow declarer's ace and jack to score. Nicely done.

In the other room Milner's trump lead allowed declarer to take the ace and ruff two diamonds in hand while taking two heart ruffs in dummy, after which he too led the fourth diamond as East shook his last heart while declarer scored the ♠10. The fourth heart was ruffed with the ♠Q and if East had pitched declarer would have had two spade winners to come while if he overruffed he could play back a trump and let declarer draw trumps and cash his heart. Lall sensibly went for the overruff and spade back since that needed the least from his partner. No swing, still 106-48 to Russia.

Bd: 36 North
 Dlr: West ♠ J4
 Vul: Both ♥ Q975
 ♦ J7652
 ♣ 106

West	East
♠ AK102	♠ 9863
♥ 10	♥ AK2
♦ 1093	♦ 84
♣ Q9853	♣ AK72
South	
♠ Q75	
♥ J8643	
♦ AKQ	
♣ J4	

Open Room
 West North East South
 Milner Gromov Lall Dubinin
 Pass Pass 1♣ 1♥
 Dbl 3♥ 3♠ Pass
 4♥ Pass 4♠ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Brink Auken Kras'ki Welland
 Pass Pass 1♣ Dbl
 1♥(♠) Pass 2♠ Pass
 3♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass

Different approaches to bidding the South cards made it hard for Brink-Krasnosselski and relatively easy for Milner-Lall to reach 4♣. With clubs 2-2 declarer could maybe have afforded a safety play in spades in the Open Room but he did not take it. No matter this time but in the Closed Room 4-1 trumps were certainly plausible and East passed the ♠9 on the first round of the suit. Still 106-48.

Bd: 37 North
 Dlr: North ♠ KQ2
 Vul: N/S ♥ 2
 ♦ AJ87543
 ♣ 106

West	East
♠ A87	♠ ---
♥ 98765	♥ AJ3
♦ Q102	♦ K96
♣ A7	♣ KQ98542
South	
♠ J1096543	
♥ KQ104	
♦ ---	
♣ J3	

Open Room
 West North East South
 Milner Gromov Lall Dubinin
 1♦ 2♣ 2♠
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠
 All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Brink Auken Kras'ki Welland
 1♦ 2♣ 2♠
 3♣ 4♣ 5♣ Dbl
 All Pass

Krasnosselski had a very nice play available here and took it. After the ♥K lead he knew diamonds rated to be 7-0. So instead of taking two clubs and cashing the ♠A (which worked here but would not have if South had been 6=4=0=3) he won the ♥A and ran five trumps, then led a diamond to the queen and ace. That forced North to win and return a diamond or a spade to dummy, allowing declarer to discard the heart, then take the diamond finesse.

In the other room Dubinin, in 4♣, lost the obvious four top tricks but Russia had 10 imps. Credit Brink with some of those imps for his 3♣ bid; it might not always work but raising two-level overcalls makes partner happy when he has bid with a good suit (and will encourage him to have a good suit next time if he has come in with insufficient excuse).

Bd: 38 North
 Dlr: East ♠ KJ10876
 Vul: E/W ♥ K2
 ♦ A102
 ♣ J3

West	East
♠ Q94	♠ 3
♥ Q9873	♥ J
♦ KQ65	♦ J974
♣ 8	♣ AKQ10952
South	
♠ A52	
♥ A10654	
♦ 83	
♣ 764	

Open Room
 West North East South
 Milner Gromov Lall Dubinin
 3♣ Pass
 Pass 3♠ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Brink Auken Kras'ki Welland
 3♣ Pass
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠
 All Pass

Is the South hand worth a 4♠ bid? BR thought it was but switch the minors and he'd pass. The choice was very close at these colors; one South bid, the other passed.

Declaring 3♠ Gromov received the defense of three rounds of clubs, Milner accurately discarding diamonds to try to prevent the ruff in dummy. That held Gromov to nine tricks when he played the ♦A and ducked a diamond, then won the heart shift, drew a trump with the ace and then finessed. Had he led a trump to the jack and ruffed a diamond with the ♣A he would have had a tenth trick at the risk of the contract.

By contrast, in 4♠ Auken received the defense of two rounds of clubs and a heart shift. Declarer had no way home now and she simply played off the top trumps, hoping they split, and went two down since she could no longer take the diamond ruff. The 6 imps here made it 122-48.

Bd: 39	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J63		
Vul: Both	♥ 62		
	♦ K10974		
	♣ KJ2		
West		East	
♠ K8		♠ Q10942	
♥ Q1053		♥ AKJ97	
♦ AJ3		♦ 82	
♣ 7654		♣ Q	
South			
♠ A75			
♥ 84			
♦ Q65			
♣ A10983			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
			1♣
Pass	1♥(♠!)	Dbl(♥)	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In the Closed Room E/W had a more challenging task than one might expect to find their heart fit, but they had the conventional agreements in place to do it. Nicely done. Equally, in the Open Room Milner looked with pleasure at his fitting spade cards and side ace and decided to drive to game. Both tables

led trumps and the declarers wrapped up +650. No swing, still 122-48.

Bd: 40	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AJ74		
Vul: None	♥ QJ65		
	♦ 2		
	♣ J864		
West		East	
♠ KQ		♠ 962	
♥ AK7		♥ 1042	
♦ KJ984		♦ Q1076	
♣ K75		♣ AQ3	
South			
♠ 10853			
♥ 983			
♦ A53			
♣ 1092			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
1♦	Dbl	3♦(1)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Mixed			

3NT looks comfortable enough except on a spade lead, when you need the suit to break 4-4. Auken, knowing that her partner could not bid a major over 3♦ and needing him to have values to have a shot to beat the hand, quite sensibly led a club. In the other room Dubinin simply led his fourth highest spade and gained his side an imp; 123-48 now.

Bd: 41	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 4		
Vul: E/W	♥ 4		
	♦ 9853		
	♣ KQ98743		
West		East	
♠ AKQ7		♠ 9653	
♥ KQ		♥ A87653	
♦ Q102		♦ AJ	
♣ 10652		♣ A	
South			
♠ J1082			
♥ J1092			
♦ K764			
♣ J			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
	4♣	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
	4♣	Dbl	5♣
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

A day earlier Auken and Welland could not make a wrong move, but today their opponents were on fire, locating the spade fit where slam could be made — but only on a heart lead, since either minor lead takes the entry out of dummy prematurely. Auken did lead her singleton heart. Declarer won, tested trumps and hearts, went to the ♣A, played the ♥A and ruffed out the hearts, cashed the last top trump, then ruffed a club to dummy. South could overruff but then had to lead diamonds into dummy's tenace. As Henry Higgins said: "How simply frightful! How humiliating! How delightful!" What all this meant was that Milner's somewhat pessimistic decision to pass 4♥ only served to hold the loss on the board to 13 imps; it was 136-48 now.

On the next board both E/W pairs bid accurately to the best partscore after the opening bidder raised a major-suit response with three trumps (take that, all you Frenchmen!). Then Russia gained 2 overtrick imps for a better lead against 3NT. The Russian lead was up to 91 imps now.

Bd: 44	North
Dlr: West	♠ 762
Vul: N/S	♥ Q973
	♦ AJ4
	♣ 1054

West	East
♠ AQJ	♠ 4
♥ AJ6	♥ K1054
♦ Q973	♦ K108652
♣ J97	♣ 86

South
♠ K109853
♥ 82
♦ ---
♣ AKQ32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
1NT	Pass	2NT(♦)	3♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♣
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
4♦	All Pass		

Welland was willing to risk his opponents retreating to 4♦ to try to get a non-spade lead against 3NT, and Brink was not prepared to gamble out a doubled contract. So Krasnosselski got to play 4♦ in peace and quiet, needing to guess both red-suits to make. Somewhat surprisingly he got diamonds right and hearts wrong. Even though Welland had not pitched either of his small clubs, wasn't a spade-club two-suiter most consistent with Welland's actions? It hardly mattered since in the other room Dubinin got to play 3♠ on a diamond lead (well, wouldn't you?). That let one of the heart losers go away and he had nine tricks for 3 imps more to Russia.

Russia then gained another overtrick imp for correctly avoiding a 5-3 major-suit fit where 3NT made 11 tricks while 4♥ required declarer to play 109x facing AK87x for one loser (they were 4-1 offside but the singleton was an honor).

Finally, Mixed was about to get back on the scorecard — after 13 deals.

Bd: 46	North
Dlr: East	♠ A
Vul: None	♥ KQJ92
	♦ 102
	♣ 76542
West	East
♠ J986	♠ K102
♥ A7654	♥ 103
♦ 986	♦ AK3
♣ K	♣ AQJ93
South	
♠ Q7543	
♥ 8	
♦ QJ754	
♣ 108	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
		1NT	
2♣	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
		1NT	2♦(♦+M)
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Auken could not have been delighted at the prospect of having to put down her dummy in 2♦, but it was a considerably better hand that she would have given her partner than the one that Dubinin put down for his partner. Against 2♥ Lall led a top diamond and shifted thoughtfully to the ♠10. Gromov won and played a low club, Milner overtaking the jack,

perforce, to play a trump. Declarer had to lose six cards in the minors and two trumps; down three.

Brink's dummy would not have looked too bad to Krasnosselski in 3NT, which is easy to make, but after the heart lead declarer could not see the necessity for ducking. Instead he won, unblocked clubs, came to his hand and tried to draw trumps. But the bad breaks in both hearts and clubs meant that Auken had five winners to cash after declarer took his eight winners. Down one; 5 imps to Mixed, trailing 142-53.

Bd: 47	North
Dlr: South	♠ 103
Vul: N/S	♥ A962
	♦ AK4
	♣ AKJ3
West	East
♠ Q87	♠ AJ92
♥ K105	♥ QJ3
♦ 862	♦ Q95
♣ 10864	♣ 975
South	
♠ K654	
♥ 874	
♦ J1073	
♣ Q2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
			Pass
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥ (♠)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Kras'ki	Welland
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

When Auken showed 17(+)-19 Welland had no reason to bid on. Krasnosselski led a top heart and declarer won to play the suit back. Brink won to play a club through and Krasnosselski, on winning the third heart, shifted to the ♠J, then a low spade when it held. Declarer ducked again and claimed +120.

In the other room Lall led the ♥Q (♥10 from Milner) and continued with the jack, which Milner overtook. Charmed, Gromov won, cashed his nine winners and collected a spade at the death for +630 and 11 imps. That made the lead 100 imps.

After the set concluded with a quiet partscore Mixed sensibly took their ball and went home for an early dinner. The Bulletin Editors were desolated at the prospect of not being able to stay up to 2AM, first covering, then writing up, the final set, but they bore their loss with fortitude.

While Russia had had some good fortune at a few critical moments, they had played exceptionally well throughout the knock-out stage, conceding fewer than 1.5 imps per board (165 in 112 deals). Mixed also played their part and were not disgraced.



2013 NEC Cup Champions: Russia

Rabbi Leonard Helman (1926 – 2013)

(Adapted from an ABF article by Ron Klinger)

Rabbi Leonard Helman, a good friend to bridge in Japan and an NEC participant in 2007, passed away on June 6, 2013 at the age of 86.

Rabbi Helman graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Trinity College in 1948, served in the U.S. Army, did graduate work in physiology and taught high school science in Charlottesville, Virginia. Rabbi Leo Lichtenberg convinced Helman that the rabbinate was his true calling and in 1955 Helman earned a doctorate of Hebrew letters at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and became a Reform rabbi. In 1970 Helman also earned a law degree from Duke University.

Finding it difficult to combine law and the rabbinate on the East coast of the United States, Rabbi Helman took a job in Santa Fe in 1974 and practiced law full time while also serving as a part-time rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom. Temple Beth Shalom had some 60 families as members when he came to Santa Fe and by 1991, when he retired, the congregation consisted of 400 families and had a new synagogue built on the property. After a short stint in Pennsylvania and Alabama, Helman returned to Santa Fe in 1995 and became the head of Congregation Beit Tikva, a Reform Synagogue.

A bridge club was built off Rodeo Road and was named the Rabbi Helman Bridge Center. The Bridge World magazine called him “the world’s most celebrated bridge-playing rabbi.”

People spoke regularly of Rabbi Helman with great affection and gratitude. They would have done anything for him. He gave of himself as few do. He would always be at your side right away if you had problems. You would get a call within seconds. In one of his sermons Rabbi Helman asked who would say kaddish (the prayer of mourning) for him. He concluded that, “having friends who love me for what I am ... that will be the kaddish for me.” At the Rabbi’s funeral Steven Abramson said it would be fitting to let Rabbi Helman have the last word at his funeral and he read from a Yom Kippur sermon which Rabbi Helman gave in 2002: “When we love, we conquer death.”

Rabbi Helman’s private life was rich with friends, hobbies and interests. He tap danced, played the piano and was a former chess champion as well as a bridge master. Helman called bridge playing “the Alzheimer’s prevention club.” When he came to the NEC Bridge Festival in 2007 he was so enamored of the experience that he made a generous donation to the JCBL to further the development of youth bridge here in Japan. He was also a benefactor of the Australian Bridge Federation and instituted two annual awards for youth bridge.

Leonard was the inspiration behind a bridge column titled ‘Thursday The Rabbi Played Bridge’. It ran for 20 years and the material in those columns was the basis for three books, “Kosher Bridge,” “Kosher Bridge 2” and “The Rabbi’s Magic Trick,” written in conjunction with David Bird.

Leonard loved his bridge and played in many NABCs and also in internationals. In 1997 English expert Mark Horton received a phone call from Mario Dix, the President of the Malta Bridge Federation, to ask whether he would be interested in playing in the Malta Festival with a visiting American, Leonard Helman. It was only later that Mark discovered Leonard was a rabbi, but it seemed like a good idea. When the event was over and Leonard was leaving for the airport Mark said goodbye with a line borrowed from Casablanca, “Rabbi, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.” Over the following decade or so Leonard and Mark played in some of the toughest events in the bridge calendar and against many of the world’s finest players. Horton was the rabbi’s partner when they played here in 2007.

Early last year Leonard telephoned Mark and said, “Mark, I really want you to come to my funeral. I’ll pay your expenses.” “No problem, Rabbi,” replied Mark, “What’s the date?” Leonard roared with laughter. As it



happened, Mark was writing the Daily Bulletin at the Asia Pacific Bridge Championships when Leonard passed away. Leonard also remarked to Mark, “I hope they put a pack of cards in my coffin. You never know.”

Mark and Eric Kokish co-authored a book about Rabbi Helman called “The Rabbi’s Rules: Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Bridge Game” which was published last year. Here are a couple of deals, with permission, from “The Rabbi’s Rules.”

The first deal arose in 2001 in the annual tournament held in the casino in Deauville:

Dlr: North North
Vul: Both ♠ Q83
 ♡ Q109
 ♦ A5
 ♣ K8742

West East
♠ AK1062 ♠ J95
♡ J742 ♡ 5
♦ 94 ♦ KJ10762
♣ 105 ♣ QJ6

South
♠ 74
♡ AK863
♦ Q83
♣ A93

West	North	East	South
	Horton		Helman
—	Pass	2♦(1)	2♡
3◊	4♡	All Pass	
(1) Weak			

West led the ♠K and switched to the ♦9 at trick 2. From the play at trick 1 and the bidding, South deduced that East had three spades and six diamonds. South rose with the ♦A, crossed to the ♡K, finessed the ♡10, played the ♡Q and came to hand with the ♣A. He cashed the ♡A and led a spade. That set up the ♠Q to discard his losing club. Later he led a diamond towards the ♦Q and thus came to ten tricks and +620.

The second deal came from a New York tournament in 2004. Leonard was playing with Richard Margolis, also a rabbi.

Dlr: South North
Vul: N/S ♠ QJ7
 ♡ A932
 ♦ A8
 ♣ 5432

West East
♠ 10963 ♠ K82
♡ — ♡ KQ1084
♦ Q109 ♦ 652
♣ KQJ1098 ♣ 76

South
♠ A54
♡ J765
♦ KJ743
♣ A

West	North	East	South
	Margolis		Helman
—	—	—	1◊
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

The opening lead was the ♣K, two, seven, ace. South played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a club. The ♦K was followed by a diamond ruff and the ♠Q from dummy was covered by the king and ace. South led a diamond winner and discarded a spade from dummy. East ruffed and returned the ♡K. Declarer won with dummy’s ace and led a club. East could not gain by ruffing and discarded a spade. South ruffed and crossed to the ♠J. That was nine tricks for declarer and a club from dummy allowed South to score the ♡J en passant for his tenth trick and +790.

Rabbi Margolis, who often played bridge with Leonard, a Gold Life Master, described him as “always honorable, always ethical, always there for those who needed someone.”

Ron Klinger mentioned two of his favorite Leonard lines:

“Playing bridge is the Alzheimer’s prevention club.”

“When we love, we conquer death.” (From his Yom Kippur sermon in 2002)

19th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tuesday (Feb. 11)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (1)	414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (2)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (3)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (4)	
Wednesday (Feb. 12)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
Thursday (Feb. 13)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (9)	414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (10)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (11)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (12)	
Friday (Feb. 14)	09:00-11:15	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	414, 415
	11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	414, 415
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama IMP Pairs	503
Saturday (Feb. 15)	09:00-11:15	NEC Cup Final (1)	414, 415
	11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	501, 502
Sunday (Feb. 16)	10:00-17:30	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	501, 502
	18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony	

NEC Cup Qualifying Swiss: 12 rounds of 14-board matches

NEC Cup Quarter- & Semi-finals: two 16-board segments

NEC Cup Final: four 16-board segments

