



# NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 2

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## Day One of the 2014 NEC Cup

At the end of Day One, the top qualifiers four are foreign teams led by England Hinden (Frances Hinden, Graham Osbourne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell) with 65.32 VPs. Back about 3-1/3 VPs is India (Subhash Chandra Gupta, Sridharan Padmanabhan, Jyotindra Madhukar Shah, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sundarram Srinivasan, Gopal Venkatesh) followed closely by Lorentz (Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Ashley Bach, Pablo Lambardi) and England/Denmark (Paul Hackett, David Bakhshi, Lars Blakset, Thomas Larsen). Rounding out the top eight are NAITO, Down Under, Russia (last year's winners) and SARA. Since Day One is rarely a great predictor of the eventual qualifiers we'll spare you the prognostications. The complete Day One rankings are shown below while the individual results for Matches 1-4 can be found on page 6.

### NEC Cup: Standings After Day One (Four Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	England Hinden...	65.32	17	Yeh Bros. Mixed. . .	47.48	33	River Side. . . . .	31.41
2	India. . . . .	61.96	18	Beijing Trinergy. . . .	47.20	34	IMAX. . . . .	29.97
3	Lorentz. . . . .	60.54	19	China Women 1. . . .	46.23	35	Seoul. . . . .	29.86
4	England/Denmark. . . .	59.69	20	SUGIYAMA. . . . .	43.14	36	Surfrider. . . . .	29.03
5	NAITO. . . . .	56.15	21	ESPERANZA. . . . .	42.29	37	Korea Hammer. . . .	28.09
6	Down Under. . . . .	55.22	22	SAKURAI. . . . .	41.66	38	HOSHI. . . . .	27.49
7	Russia. . . . .	53.70	23	STEAST. . . . .	41.21	39	Sang ae. . . . .	27.05
8	SARA. . . . .	52.89	24	China Women 2. . . .	41.04	40	KATSUMATA. . . . .	25.41
9	China – Shanghai. . . .	51.43	25	KinKi. . . . .	40.57	41	Dangoon. . . . .	25.29
10	Australia. . . . .	50.41	26	Lucky Corner. . . . .	37.89	42	Kitty's. . . . .	23.17
11	Shanghai Financial. . . .	50.27	27	Yamada. . . . .	35.91	43	LAS FLORES. . . . .	19.09
12	England Black. . . . .	50.22	28	Japan Youth. . . . .	34.97	44	Friends. . . . .	15.76
13	Bulgaria All Stars. . . .	49.70	29	FOOTerZ. . . . .	34.57	45	Harmony. . . . .	14.99
14	Circle The World. . . . .	48.96	30	Shiro Gumi. . . . .	34.27	46	Iza Yokohama V. . . .	14.28
15	NANIWADA. . . . .	48.59	31	MIURA. . . . .	33.83			
16	PYON. . . . .	48.15	32	Kacho-fugetsu. . . . .	33.65			

Follow the action at the 19<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:  
<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/tabid/1043/Default.aspx>  
and follow our featured matches on VuGraph each day at: [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Matches will feature Russia (3) vs SARA (23)  
and Bulgaria (9) vs Circle The World (20)

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> group. The team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses. KO — 3imps for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, 10imps 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

## Team Rosters: 19<sup>th</sup> 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, Sundarram 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, Im Hyun, Kwon Sooja
16	Korea Hammer:	Chung Ilsub, Hwang Inryung, Yang Sungae, Sung Kyunghae
17	Shanghai Financial BC:	Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Shan Baisong, Liu Ning, Xi Yuheng
18	STEAAT:	Katsumi Takahashi, Tadashi Yoshida, Lee Bokhee, Kim Yoonkyung, Park Jungyoon, 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, Sachiho 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

### 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/t3dm2r8llxmetp4njh98/Top>

### Important Notice About Submitting Lineups

Teams may (at their option) submit their lineup for the 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> matches each day on the JCBL web site. However, lineups for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> matches MUST be submitted by filling out a lineup sheet on the table outside the playing area. Also note: If your team submits a lineup via the web site DO NOT also submit a written lineup as the two may present a problem if they differ.

# 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♣ 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♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
  - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
  - at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
  - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 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.
- Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
- Opening 3NT bid indicating:
  - any solid suit or
  - a broken minor suit.
- Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
- Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

### Responses and Rebids

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

- All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
- Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
- 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

- Any conventional balancing calls.
- Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
- Notrump overcall for either:
  - 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.)
  - three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
- Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
- 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.
- Comic 1NT overcall.
- Defense to:
  - conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
  - natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
  - opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
- Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
- Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

### Carding

- 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

## Tuesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 1				Match 2				Match 3				Match 4			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	24	57	19.38	19.38	5	45	13.72	33.10	36	49	18.17	51.27	6	34	8.42	59.69
2	35	34	13.72	13.72	11	58	18.17	31.89	20	34	16.88	48.77	3	47	16.55	65.32
3	39	67	18.53	18.53	20	49	12.16	30.69	5	68	19.56	50.25	2	20	3.45	53.70
4	46	19	7.03	7.03	33	26	9.03	16.06	31	38	13.96	30.02	34	50	16.21	46.23
5	40	56	19.47	19.47	1	32	6.28	25.75	3	17	0.44	26.19	42	36	14.85	41.04
6	44	54	19.08	19.08	9	50	16.88	35.96	7	47	14.42	50.38	1	39	11.58	61.96
7	43	79	17.91	17.91	32	58	19.08	36.99	6	31	5.58	42.57	8	32	7.84	50.41
8	26	21	5.15	5.15	38	68	20.00	25.15	12	64	17.91	43.06	7	39	12.16	55.22
9	29	61	19.28	19.28	6	21	3.12	22.40	45	50	17.63	40.03	10	31	9.67	49.70
10	27	77	20.00	20.00	37	44	15.06	35.06	14	16	6.04	41.10	9	32	10.33	51.43
11	25	55	14.19	14.19	2	20	1.83	16.02	43	73	19.56	35.58	18	42	14.64	50.22
12	38	54	15.06	15.06	26	29	10.33	25.39	8	28	2.09	27.48	16	71	20.00	47.48
13	33	22	10.33	10.33	45	33	7.84	18.17	35	82	20.00	38.17	17	35	9.03	47.20
14	34	69	20.00	20.00	17	38	14.42	34.42	10	30	13.96	48.38	30	24	12.16	60.54
15	31	23	4.94	4.94	18	15	4.54	9.48	40	26	13.72	23.20	46	12	2.09	25.29
16	45	23	11.28	11.28	46	28	14.85	26.13	30	18	1.96	28.09	12	11	0.00	28.09
17	28	64	20.00	20.00	14	22	5.58	25.58	37	26	13.72	39.30	13	38	10.97	50.27
18	36	16	4.54	4.54	15	36	15.46	20.00	33	55	15.85	35.85	11	25	5.36	41.21
19	37	21	0.26	0.26	27	16	5.81	6.07	38	86	20.00	26.07	28	19	3.79	29.86
20	41	55	18.53	18.53	3	42	7.84	26.37	2	5	3.12	29.49	29	58	19.47	48.96
21	32	20	2.81	2.81	43	22	7.03	9.84	29	3	0.00	9.84	44	17	5.15	14.99
22	30	17	2.96	2.96	42	31	7.03	9.99	39	30	11.28	21.27	35	22	14.64	35.91
23	42	46	17.04	17.04	30	22	6.77	23.81	26	45	9.34	33.15	32	65	19.74	52.89
24	1	8	0.62	0.62	40	33	11.58	12.20	44	68	20.00	32.20	37	5	2.37	34.57
25	11	40	5.81	5.81	35	13	4.15	9.96	42	13	9.67	19.63	27	21	14.64	34.27
26	8	39	14.85	14.85	12	28	9.67	24.52	23	47	10.66	35.18	36	24	12.97	48.15
27	10	11	0.00	0.00	19	31	14.19	14.19	34	26	3.62	17.81	25	4	5.36	23.17
28	17	5	0.00	0.00	34	23	6.52	6.52	41	51	19.56	26.08	19	44	16.21	42.29
29	9	13	0.72	0.72	44	19	8.72	9.44	21	96	20.00	29.44	20	8	0.53	29.97
30	22	47	17.04	17.04	23	33	13.23	30.27	16	55	18.04	48.31	14	17	7.84	56.15
31	15	42	15.06	15.06	36	17	2.66	17.72	4	24	6.04	23.76	33	64	19.38	43.14
32	21	51	17.19	17.19	7	12	0.92	18.11	46	43	15.46	33.57	23	12	0.26	33.83
33	13	21	9.67	9.67	4	29	10.97	20.64	18	32	4.15	24.79	31	15	0.62	25.41
34	14	1	0.00	0.00	28	35	13.48	13.48	27	52	16.38	29.86	4	25	3.79	33.65
35	2	21	6.28	6.28	25	36	15.85	22.13	13	0	0.00	22.13	22	5	5.36	27.49
36	18	37	15.46	15.46	31	49	17.34	32.80	1	11	1.83	34.63	26	14	7.03	41.66
37	19	74	19.74	19.74	10	25	4.94	24.68	17	13	6.28	30.96	24	39	17.63	48.59
38	12	35	4.94	4.94	8	6	0.00	4.94	19	9	0.00	4.94	41	26	9.34	14.28
39	3	26	1.47	1.47	41	17	13.48	14.95	22	26	8.72	23.67	45	16	5.36	29.03
40	5	6	0.53	0.53	24	28	8.42	8.95	15	13	6.28	15.23	43	54	19.74	34.97
41	20	14	1.47	1.47	39	5	6.52	7.99	28	0	0.44	8.43	38	28	10.66	19.09
42	23	16	2.96	2.96	22	41	12.97	15.93	25	14	10.33	26.26	5	18	5.15	31.41
43	7	43	2.09	2.09	21	32	12.97	15.06	11	22	0.44	15.50	40	1	0.26	15.76
44	6	8	0.92	0.92	29	23	11.28	12.20	24	6	0.00	12.20	21	35	14.85	27.05
45	16	19	8.72	8.72	13	40	12.16	20.88	9	16	2.37	23.25	39	33	14.64	37.89
46	4	29	12.97	12.97	16	10	5.15	18.12	32	22	4.54	22.66	15	48	17.91	40.57

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

# Match One: India vs Sang ae

by Barry Rigal



Ohashi



Venkatesh



Nitta



Srinivasan



Ito



Shah



Sakata



Padmanabhan

The first board out saw an uncomplicated approach win imps for India.

Bd: 1            North  
 Dlr: North    ♠ Q  
 Vul: None     ♥ Q73  
                   ♦ KQJ9875  
                   ♣ Q9

West  
 ♠ AKJ1065  
 ♥ A102  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ 64

East  
 ♠ 98  
 ♥ J964  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ AJ8753

South  
 ♠ 7432  
 ♥ K85  
 ♦ 1042  
 ♣ K102

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♦	3♥	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♠	All Pass		

Sundaram Srinivasan (yes I know, easy for *you* to say) could bid a natural 2♠ at his first turn and nobody had anything more to say. He won the diamond lead, ruffed a diamond and took a spade finesse because he could afford it. (Had he been in four he would doubtless have taken heart finesses instead.) He lost a spade, a club and two hearts eventually for +140, not a triumph with game

makable his way. However, when Ohashi passed initially and balanced with a double, doubtless planning to correct hearts to spades to show her extras, Venkatesh altered the script by re-raising to 3♦ and now when Nitta bid 3♥ Ohashi tried to land on a pin-head by passing. In 3♥ Nitta won the diamond lead and somewhat desperately led a low trump from dummy. When Shah won and continued diamonds the hand fell to pieces, and declarer emerged with three side-suit aces and four trump tricks via two ruffs in hand and one in dummy. 6 imps to India.

In our other featured match Patrick Huang as West overcalled in spades, re-competed to 3♠ over 3♦, and made 11 tricks when the defenders broached hearts for him. By contrast, J-Y Shih as North bought the hand in 3♦ when West at his table passed initially, then balanced over 2♦ with a double and sold out to 3♦. After a low heart lead by East the defense looked on track to take five winners, but when Shimominami rose with the ♥A at the first trick (which might, I suppose, have been right on a different day) eight tricks had become nine.

The datum saw about half the field bid to 4♠ and make it, but not everybody brought it home.

Bd: 2            North  
 Dlr: East      ♠ Q7432  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ J1042  
                   ♦ K  
                   ♣ J93

West  
 ♠ J10  
 ♥ 986  
 ♦ AJ10975  
 ♣ 82

East  
 ♠ AK85  
 ♥ Q7  
 ♦ 843  
 ♣ KQ76

South  
 ♠ 96  
 ♥ AK53  
 ♦ Q62  
 ♣ A1054

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠(1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

(1) Puppet to 2NT

In the Closed Room auction West had to sign off in 3♦ rather than 2♦. After the ♥J lead declarer ducked, as did South. The second heart went to the king and back came a low trump. When declarer rose with the ace he had nine tricks painlessly.

In the other room South won the first heart to shift to a low trump. Declarer finessed and when a heart came back to the ace for a second low diamond she rose with the ace, creating a second diamond loser for down one. That was essentially the same line that Patrick Huang (also in 3♦) followed in the other match.

Everyone bid to a hopeless game on the next deal with a four-four major-suit fit and two balanced hands with a combined 25 HCP. Sang ae saved an undertrick to get on the scoreboard, down 10-2.

Bd: 4	North	
Dlr: West	♠ ---	
Vul: Both	♥ J104	
	♦ AK9873	
	♣ QJ53	
West		East
♠ AJ1094		♠ K5
♥ 7		♥ A986532
♦ Q52		♦ J
♣ 9862		♣ AK4
	South	
	♠ Q87632	
	♥ KQ	
	♦ 1064	
	♣ 107	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

It is hard to blame anyone too much for the debacle from the Closed Room. The 2♠ bid, while pushy, might not have backfired as spectacularly as it did, and it was far from clear to North that her partner might not have better spades and short diamonds. Still, the failure to jump to 2♠ over 1♥ might argue for correcting 2♠ to 3♦. Our unbiased editor (who hadn't seen the full deal) would have passed ,but there again his middle name is Pontius Pilate, "You got me into this, you get me out of it. I wash my hands of the entire affair." 2♠ played like a dream of the nightmare variety, the defenders getting all seven of their trumps plus their three top winners for down five. Yes, declarer might have found a way to scramble a trick or two more. In the other room 2♥ played for ten tricks when after a spade lead North ruffed and Nitta thoughtfully unblocked her ♠K to allow for a subsequent spade finesse to discard the club loser.

This play was more important in our second match, where the contract was 3♦ down one at one table, but Chisato Kiriya overcalled 1♦ with 4♥ and played it there. She also correctly unblocked the ♠K at trick one, and with hearts now two-two could not be prevented from making her game for 11 imps, making the score 15-7 to Iza Yokohama.

(A club lead might beat 4♠ legitimately , and that was what Masayuki Ohashi did against the Bulgarian All Stars. Take that! However, the Rueful Rabbit would have defeated the game on a spade lead by forgetting what trumps were. He would have "ruffed" with the ♣3 at the first trick and then been disabused of the idea that he had won the trick. His partner would win the first trump trick and give him a spade ruff to kill dummy!)

The N/S pairs at both tables in our featured match then judged a partscore accurately to stop at the three-level on a deal where game was somewhat worse than on a choice of finesses, both failing. (In the second match declarer took the wrong finesse in 3♥ and went down there. That made it 15-11 for Iza Yokohama.)

Bd: 6	North	
Dlr: East	♠ QJ753	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q	
	♦ A543	
	♣ Q106	
West		East
♠ A86		♠ 102
♥ 8532		♥ AKJ7
♦ 1087		♦ KQ9
♣ K95		♣ AJ32
	South	
	♠ K94	
	♥ 10964	
	♦ J62	
	♣ 874	



### Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	4♥	All Pass

Both tables declared 4♥ on a top spade lead. Both won the ♠A but Srinivasan played a diamond at trick two, and when Ito won her ♦A declarer no longer had a way to go wrong. Ohashi took her ♠A to play two rounds of hearts, then exited in spades, letting Shah win and play a third trump. Declarer won in dummy and led the ♦K. North ducked, so declarer played a club to her king and finessed in that suit. When the finesse worked and the suit split three-three she cashed the fourth club, and in the four-card ending had three winning options as South pitched a spade: She could either ruff her winner to lead a diamond up or pitch a diamond and exit with the ♦Q. Alas, she went for the fourth choice of pitching a spade, and now the defenders had two diamonds and a spade if she exited from dummy in diamonds, or a spade, heart and diamond winner if she played a trump.

In our other featured match Shimominami also misjudged the play by using her entries to hand to play on diamonds rather than clubs. By contrast, Huang ducked the first spade (which looks clearly right), then played a line that transposed into Ohashi's. In the four-card ending, when he led the master club South ruffed in and declarer discarded a diamond and claimed ten tricks.

The field found this a tougher board than you might expect. Almost half the field missed game or went down in 4♥.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ A943
Vul: Both	♥ 743
	♦ 32
	♣ KQ83
West	East
♠ 52	♠ K7
♥ KJ82	♥ A65
♦ J97	♦ AK1085
♣ AJ72	♣ 654
	South
	♠ QJ1086
	♥ Q109
	♦ Q64
	♣ 109

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A perfectly respectable 3NT on a spade lead, needing just the diamond finesse. Padmanabhan's luck was not in, and Sang ae had 6 imps, to trail 30-8.

Iza Yokohama picked up the same 6 imps by stopping in a partscore and defeating game in the other room. Only two tables brought home game as E/W, Patterson-Whittaker for England (Black) in 3NT on a club lead, and Kenji Miyakuni in 4♥ on a spade lead. Even after the defenders win and shift to a top club declarer can survive easily enough by ducking, given the lie of the hearts, and the club blockage would allow him to win the ♣A at his first turn.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 10942
Vul: None	♥ 864
	♦ 762
	♣ 1093
West	East
♠ A8	♠ KJ53
♥ AK92	♥ Q53
♦ J5	♦ A10843
♣ AKQ76	♣ J
	South
	♠ Q76
	♥ J107
	♦ KQ9
	♣ 8542

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

Far be it from us to throw the first stone (who are we kidding? We salivate at the opportunity) but we think West in the Open Room underbid his hand by a trick facing the 9-11 East ought to have shown for this auction. Unless, that is, West believed that 3NT

showed a minimum and 2NT extras. It is all about partnership understandings, really. This ought to have been good for 11 imps to Sang ae but a bizarre accident in the play involving a lead out of turn by North at the start of play persuaded declarer that clubs were five-two, and she played on diamonds prematurely to go down in slam. 11 somewhat unearned imps to India, who led 41-8 now.

That four-two spade fit might not seem all that attractive to you, but after a bidding misunderstanding this is where Huang-Sun Ming ended up, losing 14 imps against 990 from the other room. Iza Yokohama led 35-26. Just for the record, the datum score was +700 E/W. We think that in 6NT by West declarer should win the club lead and run (or perhaps duck) the first diamond, then test hearts followed by clubs. When both suits break there are twelve winners. If only one suit breaks declarer tests diamonds, then falls back on the spades or a squeeze.

Bd: 9                    North  
 Dlr: North           ♠ 5  
 Vul: E/W             ♥ A3  
                            ♦ QJ5  
                            ♣ K1097432

West  
 ♠ J9832  
 ♥ 1065  
 ♦ 632  
 ♣ 65

East  
 ♠ K6  
 ♥ Q9842  
 ♦ 1094  
 ♣ AJ8

South  
 ♠ AQ1074  
 ♥ KJ7  
 ♦ AK87  
 ♣ Q

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Sakata may not have won any style-point awards but 3NT in both rooms was a comfortable contract for +460. I suppose you can make slam in diamonds if you can bid it, but nobody could. Twelve pairs went down in 6NT, two in 6♣.

Bd: 10                    North  
 Dlr: East               ♠ K854  
 Vul: Both              ♥ 97653  
                            ♦ K3  
                            ♣ A8

West  
 ♠ A10762  
 ♥ Q102  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ K754

East  
 ♠ QJ9  
 ♥ AK84  
 ♦ Q642  
 ♣ 102

South  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ J109875  
 ♣ QJ963

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both tables played 4♠ on an unopposed sequence. Both received a heart lead and won it in dummy. While Srinivasan went down immediately by playing a club to the king and suffering a heart ruff, Ohashi stayed in the game by taking a trump finesse, which held, then one that lost. Back came a heart. Declarer won in hand, led a club to the ten and jack, won the diamond return, unblocked hearts, crossed to the ♠J, pitched a club on the ♥K, and needed to guess clubs now to make her game. When she played the percentages by leading to the king and ace, it was a flat board. In the same ending Huang for Yeh Bros Mixed guessed clubs and scored up +620.

At another table, for Shiro Gumi, Motomi Shirogane as West also received a heart lead. She won in hand and led a low trump to dummy's jack. When that held she played a club to the king and ace. Although the defenders could lead one more trump, they could not stop her coming to four spades, four hearts a diamond and a ruff unless they played two more rounds of trumps and gave up their natural spade trick.

Roughly a third of the field brought home +620 here, but in quite a few of those cases they were helped by a trump lead or by a top diamond or club lead by North.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 975  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ 10854  
 ♣ AKQ52

West  
 ♠ AJ108  
 ♥ K542  
 ♦ A972  
 ♣ 9

East  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AQ83  
 ♦ Q63  
 ♣ 108743

South  
 ♠ KQ643  
 ♥ 10976  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ J6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The Indian team certainly did not hold back on this board, though you can decide for yourself whether you are more enamored of the 2♣ overcall by North or the 3♥ raise by West, who doubtless had an ace in his hand from the previous deal. 3♦ was an ugly contract, which after a top club lead and heart shift garnered eight tricks on a scramble. Ohashi took three spade ruffs in dummy and two club ruffs in hand to go with her three aces for down one.

In the other room both defenders and declarers got it absolutely right. Sakatas led a top spade. Declarer won and gave up a club to North who played a spade through. Padmanabhan pitched a diamond on this spade and next tried to cross-ruff clubs and diamonds. South could overruff the third diamond and play back a trump leaving declarer with only nine tricks. No swing.

Fan Guangsheng for China , Shanghai was the only declarer to come to ten tricks in hearts after a top spade lead, but we can't find any legitimate play for the ten tricks. Yeh Bros Mixed took over the lead in their match when Iza Yokohama overreached to 4♠ and were doubled for 500. While nobody made 4♥ it was possible to get very rich on defense. Pride of place goes to Whibley-Milne for Australia, collecting 1400 against 4♠x on a heart lead and spade shift when declarer unwisely split his honors at trick two.

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ KQ743  
 ♥ QJ4  
 ♦ J2  
 ♣ KJ7

West  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ 10965  
 ♦ AK943  
 ♣ Q62

East  
 ♠ J1052  
 ♥ K72  
 ♦ 86  
 ♣ A1094

South  
 ♠ A86  
 ♥ A83  
 ♦ Q1075  
 ♣ 853

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ohashi</i>	<i>Venk'sh</i>	<i>Nitta</i>	<i>Shah</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Srini'n</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dbl	Pass	2♣	3♠
All Pass			

Nobody ever asks me for my views on candidates for the biggest single "normal" imp-losing action, but high up there would be treating a balanced 10-count with three trumps as suitable for an invitation facing a 1M opening. Of course once Srinivasan got involved he had his side in *deep* doo-doo. On the obvious trump lead 2♣x would have been down a likely 500, but Sakata committed her side to 3♠ and after a diamond lead and thoughtful club shift the defenders took their four minor-suit winners and trump trick for down one.

1NT handled very smoothly after a diamond lead. Shah played ace and a second spade, ducking when West showed out, and when the defenders cleared diamonds he cashed out for eight tricks via the heart finesse. That made it 47-8.

Yeh Bros picked up a very similar swing when they made 2♠ in one room and defeated 3♠ in the other. They finished up winners by 54-35, equivalent to 15.06-4.94 in VPs.



"I must, I must, I must improve my bust."

Bd: 13 North  
 Dir: North ♠ 64  
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ932  
 ♦ 64  
 ♣ A543

West  
 ♠ QJ10952  
 ♥ A74  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ KQ106

East  
 ♠ 87  
 ♥ Q5  
 ♦ K9853  
 ♣ J987

South  
 ♠ AK3  
 ♥ 1086  
 ♦ AQJ1072  
 ♣ 2

Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Srini'n Ito Pad'han Sakata*  
 Pass Pass 1♦  
 1♠ Dbl Pass 2♦  
 2♠ All Pass

The defense to 2♠ saw a diamond lead ruffed by West, followed by a trump to the king. South shifted to a club and North won to play back a diamond. Eventually the defenders scored a ruff and two plain-suit winners to go with their two trump tricks, for +110. In the other room the defenders took their club ruff at trick four and when declarer managed to lose two heart tricks she was down 200 for 7imps more to India, making it 54-8 (19.08-0.92 in VPs).

Open Room  
 West North East South  
*Ohashi Venk'sh Nitta Shah*  
 Pass Pass 1♦  
 1♠ Dbl Pass 3♦  
 3♠ All Pass

Whenever we feel blue, we start breathing again.

### Look ma, no hands!



"I'm so happy I could cry."



"Let's just agree to disagree."



"Now where did that ♦4 go?"



The happy smiley people...plus one!



"You want to know what I *really* think?"

# Match Two: China , Shanghai vs NANIWADA

by Rich Colker



Nose



Shen



Zhou



Togawa



Chen W



Kobayashi



Kataoka



Cao

Bd: 17  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ 6  
♥ Q83  
♦ Q32  
♣ A108654

West  
♠ K98  
♥ 92  
♦ KJ1098  
♣ K92

East  
♠ A432  
♥ AKJ7654  
♦ 7  
♣ Q

South  
♠ QJ1075  
♥ 10  
♦ A654  
♣ J73

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nose	Shen	Togawa	Zhou
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen W	Kobayashi	Cao	Kataoka
	Pass	1♥	2♠
Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts reached the good 4♥, which requires careful play on the normal spade lead. If declarer wins the ♠K in dummy he must take the heart finesse immediately, draw trump, then exit with a diamond (either before or after cashing one or more of his remaining trumps). If declarer wins the ♠A in hand at trick one, he must then cash the top two hearts and exit with a red card, after which the defense cannot prevail. In the Open Room the defense failed to give Togawa any problems in the play. Togawa won the ♠A in hand and played the ace-king and a third heart. Shen won, led a diamond to Zhou's ace, and

when Zhou got out with a second diamond Togawa finessed, ruffed the queen, and now had the ♠K entry to pitch his two losing spades; +420.

At the table where Dick Shek declared the defenders played a second spade after winning the ♦A. Shek won in dummy, played king and another diamond to ruff out the suit, then exited with the ♣Q forcing North to give dummy the lead for the tenth trick.

In the Closed Room Chao also won the ♠A in hand but then exited immediately with the ♣Q. The defense can now prevail if North wins the ♣A, plays a diamond to South's ace, and South now continues with a top spade, allowing North to ruff out the king. (North then simply exits with a low heart leaving declarer with two more spades to lose.) Kobayashi found the winning diamond shift but Kataoka fell from grace when he won the ace and continued the suit. Chao won the king (pitching a spade) and played ace, king and a third heart. North won but could not prevent declarer from pitching his last spade loser on the ♣K. A frustrating push for NANIWADA.

Overall, E/W made game more often than not here.

Bd: 18  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ A1064  
♥ A852  
♦ K984  
♣ 5

West  
♠ 8  
♥ KQ1097643  
♦ 5  
♣ K94

East  
♠ KQ5  
♥ ---  
♦ Q76  
♣ AQJ10872

South  
♠ J9732  
♥ J  
♦ AJ1032  
♣ 63

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Nose	Shen	Togawa	Zhou
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Dbl	2♣	3♠
4♥	4♠	Dbl	Pass
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen W	Kobayashi	Cao	Kataoka
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room Shen's aggressive double and perhaps even more aggressive 4♠ bid payed off big time when 4♠ proved cold (provided declarer guesses diamonds, which should not be too difficult once the heart situation is revealed) and Nose took the push to the five level. Shen led a club, which rode around to the king, and Nose played the ♥Q, ducked, then the ♥K. Shen won, played the ♦8 to the ace, and Zhou accurately played a second club for Shen to ruff. At this point the defense could have collected a second undertrick by cashing the ♠A, but Shen tried the ♦K and now Nose ruffed, drew the remaining trump, and pitched his spade loser on a club for down one, -100.

In the Closed Room Kobayashi never got into the auction and Chen lost no time in reaching 4♥. NANIWADA could still have held the loss to 2 imps had Kobayashi found the club lead but when he led a diamond the defense could only cash their three aces. Again the defense lost the ♠A when Kobayashi won the second heart and tried the ♦K, but that was irrelevant; -450 was 11 imps to Shanghai, 11-0.

In the match between England Hinden and England Black Mike Bell for Hinden overcalled 1♠ as South and West jumped to 4♥, letting Hydes bid on to 4♠. East thought he could beat that and doubled. He was wrong. In the other room Hinden-Osbourne bid accurately to 5♣ over 4♠ and North thought he could beat that...wrong again. That was 16 imps to Hinden. As you might expect, quite a significant percentage of the field did make +790 as N/S, but more played game and made it as E/W.



"What to you looks inscrutable, to me just feels tired."

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ 94
Vul: E/W	♥ 1085
	♦ KQ1095
	♣ 763
West	East
♠ 86	♠ AK53
♥ Q964	♥ AK3
♦ AJ72	♦ 64
♣ QJ8	♣ 10942
South	
♠ QJ1072	
♥ J72	
♦ 83	
♣ AK5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Nose	Shen	Togawa	Zhou
			1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen W	Kobayashi	Cao	Kataoka
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

1NT by North was not the happiest of contracts, but Chen-Cao took full advantage in the Closed Room when Chen balanced with a double and Cao produced a green card, then led the ♥K and switched accurately to the ♣2. Kobayashi won the ace, played a diamond to the king, the got out with a spade. Cao won the king, cashed the ♥A, and then continued the club attack. Kobayashi rose king and played a second diamond but Chen rose ace, cashed the ♣Q and her two hearts, then led a spade to the ace for down three, +500 for E/W. (The only E/W pair to do better than this were Kim Sun Young and Bae In Soon, recording +600 in 3NT on a spade lead — an impressive feat).

In the Open Room Shen got to play an unmolested 1NT, and there the defense cashed their four heart tricks (dummy errantly pitching a spade) before Nose switched to the ♦2. Shen now had the tempo to take an extra trick since dummy still had club entries for the spades. He rose ♦K and played a spade. Togawa rose with the king and switched to a club but it was too late; a second spade left declarer with five tricks for down two, -100. 9 more imps to Shanghai, ahead now 20-0.

On Board 20 both Easts played diamond part scores making ten tricks for +130 and no swing. On Board 21 both Easts played in 1NT on a heart lead but Togawa made eight tricks where Cao took only

seven. 1 imp to NANIWADA, trailing 20-1.

Bd: 22 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 104  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q83  
 ♦ KJ652  
 ♣ 985

West  
 ♠ 765  
 ♥ J1072  
 ♦ Q108  
 ♣ K32

East  
 ♠ AQJ  
 ♥ A64  
 ♦ A97  
 ♣ AQ74

South  
 ♠ K9832  
 ♥ K95  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ J106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nose</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
		2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen W</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both bidding roads led to 3NT here but all play roads did not lead to the requisite number of tricks. In the Open Room Zhou led the ♠3 to the ten and queen. Togawa tried leading a diamond to the queen and king. Shen won, returned a spade to the jack and king, and Zhou cleared the suit. With only eight tricks in sight (even assuming clubs split three-three) Togawa fell back on the diamond finesse and played a club to the king and passed the ♦10; +600.

The defense in the Closed Room began the same way on the ♠3 lead, but here Cao chose a strange line, cashing three rounds of clubs ending in dummy and passing the ♥J. Kataoka won the king and tabled the ♥9, 10, Q, A. Cao cashed his last club and got out with a heart. Kobayashi won the eight and played his last spade. Cao went for an endplay on South by rising with the ace and then exiting with the ♠J but the defense had two more spades to cash for down one, -100, and 12 moreimps to NANIWADA, who closed the gap to 7imps at 20-13. Roughly two thirds of the field made 3NT here, but only Hinden managed a sizable penalty here as North-South, when Hydes and Bell doubled 6♥ for 800.

On Board 23 both N/S pairs reached a reasonable 6♦ slam but with a sure trump loser when a nine-card trump fit missing the queen failed to behave and an

apparently inevitable club loser, both finished down one, -100, for no swing. More than half the field played slam and went down, but three pairs made slam (better not to ask too many questions here).

Bd: 24 North  
 Dir: West ♠ KQ83  
 Vul: None ♥ AQ2  
 ♦ QJ9  
 ♣ 983

West  
 ♠ 9542  
 ♥ 975  
 ♦ K87  
 ♣ A107

East  
 ♠ AJ6  
 ♥ J1064  
 ♦ 642  
 ♣ J52

South  
 ♠ 107  
 ♥ K83  
 ♦ A1053  
 ♣ KQ64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nose</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen W</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Once again both bidding roads led to 3NT and again both play roads did not lead to the requisite number of tricks. In the Open Room Togawa led a heart to the nine and queen and Shen passed the ♦Q to the king. Nose returned a heart as Shen rose ace and led a club to the king and ace. Nose, rather than clear hearts, switched to the difficult-to-read ♠5, K, A. Tagawa returned the ♠J, which Shen allowed to hold, and seeing Nose follow with the ♠4 Tagawa astutely switched back to hearts, and Shen finished down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Cao led the ♥J to the ace and Kobayashi passed the ♦Q. Chen won the king and, like Nose in the Open Room, switched to the ♠5, K, A. Cao continued along the same line and tabled the ♠J, which Kobayashi also allowed to hold (Chen following with the 2), but here Cao fell from grace and played a third spade, and now Kobayashi had his ninth trick for +400. 10imps to NANIWADA, taking the lead for the first time at 23-20.

The field was split almost exactly into those who let game through and those who defeated it.

With the diamonds splitting four-four on Board 25 both E/W pairs with a balanced 29 HCP had no difficulty in bidding to 3NT and taking nine tricks for a push at +600. The four-three heart fit would have handled for +420 but the lure of notrump was too much for the field. Then...

Bd: 26 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ J953  
 Vul: Both ♥ 10942  
 ♦ 753  
 ♣ Q5

West  
 ♠ KQ87  
 ♥ K5  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AKJ932

East  
 ♠ A1062  
 ♥ AQJ6  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ 8764

South  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ 873  
 ♦ AKQJ10942  
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nose</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen W</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
Dbl	4♣	Dbl	4♦
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Zhou's 3NT in the Open Room worked far better than it had any right to when Nose inexplicably passed at both of his turns to call and settled for 100 an undertrick for the obvious +200. This was the second best score achieved by a N/S pair. Step forward Venkatesh and Shah, who got to defend 7♣ down a trick (nice lead, by the way).

In the Closed Room Chen took exception to Kataoka's gambling 3NT immediately (as should we all!) and the dynamic Chen-Cao duo soared to the highest paying (though hardly the safest) slam: 6♠. The defense started with a diamond followed by the ♣10. Chen rose ace, cashed the ♠KQ, finished picking up trumps, and claimed the rest for +1430. That was 15 imps back to Shanghai, who reclaimed the lead at 35-23.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ AJ652  
 Vul: None ♥ AK10  
 ♦ Q1064  
 ♣ 4

West  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ Q53  
 ♦ K82  
 ♣ KJ10986

East  
 ♠ K7  
 ♥ 7642  
 ♦ A97  
 ♣ AQ32

South  
 ♠ Q9843  
 ♥ J98  
 ♦ J53  
 ♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nose</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	3♠
4♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen W</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	4♠
5♣	5♠	Dbl	All Pass

With four inescapable losers in either black-suit contract here, the last bidder gets the zero (as a certain lupine analyst is fond of saying), and that was NANIWADA at both tables. Given that position, in the Open Room Nose-Togawa scored up a Pyrrhic victory when Shen started off the defense by cashing the ♥AK, allowing Nose to escape for down one, -100. In the Closed Room Kataoka's 5♠ had no escape from four losers and he finished down two, -300, for another 9 imps to Shanghai, ahead now by 21 at 44-23.

No fewer than four Easts found their way to 3NT, and wrapped up +400 on spade leads. Well done Patterson-Whittaker, Iida-Katsumata, Furuta-Chen, and Teramoto-Sasahira.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ A753  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K97  
 ♦ AK865  
 ♣ K

West  
 ♠ Q10982  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ J7542

East  
 ♠ KJ  
 ♥ Q8643  
 ♦ 1073  
 ♣ Q93

South  
 ♠ 64  
 ♥ 1052  
 ♦ Q942  
 ♣ A1086



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nose	Shen	Togawa	Zhou
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
1♠	All Pass		

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen W	Kobayashi	Cao	Kataoka
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room Zhou passed a Precision 1♦ opening and failed to back in over Nose's balancing 1♠. That was unfortunate since his side could take 10 tricks in diamonds. Shen led the ♦AK, Nose ruffing the second to lead a club. Shen won the king, performed, and played a third diamond, tapping Nose a second time. A club to the queen was allowed to hold and when Nose led a third club Zhou rose with the ace and switched to a trump. Shen won the ace as Nose unblocked the king, won the second spade in hand with the queen, and drew a third round hoping the suit split three-three. But when Zhou showed out declarer's last trick was the ♥A and he finished down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Kataoka's 1NT response (we hate it — but we'd do it) got him an unappreciated raise, and Chen got the defense going with the ♠10 to the king and a spade back to the queen and ace. Next Kataoka tested diamonds with the ace, unblocked the ♣K, and cashed out his eight tricks for +120. That was 2 imps back to NANIWADA, trailing now 44-25.

The final two boards were pushes, Board 29 in 4♥ making six (when the ♣A was onside) and Board 30 in notrump part scores when both 1NT and 2NT each went down one trick. The match ended China – Shanghai 44, NANIWADA 25, 15.06-4.94 in VPs.

Has anyone noticed that since everyone has a cell phone these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

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## Game in hand



"Do you feel lucky? Well, do you, punk?"



"You put your left foot in..."



"So, tell me again, *how* did you go for 1700?"



"He makes me so frustrated I just feel like pulling my hair out!"

# Match Three: England Hinden vs Circle The World

by Barry Rigal



Rasmussen



Hydes



Bell



Shek



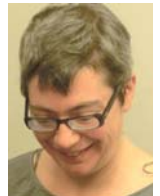
Osbourne



Shimamura



Samuel



Hinden

Bd: 1  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ Q983  
♥ AQJ64  
♦ Q84  
♣ J

West  
♠ K7  
♥ K1097532  
♦ 32  
♣ 65

East  
♠ AJ52  
♥ ---  
♦ AJ10965  
♣ Q97

South  
♠ 1064  
♥ 8  
♦ K7  
♣ AK108432

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
	1♥	2♦	3♣

Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
	1♥	2♦	3♣

Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
------	----	------	-----

All Pass

In the Open Room Shek's diamond lead went to the king. Hydes cashed the top clubs (no luck there), then led a heart to...the ace. That was declarer's last trick since the defenders were ready to take one heart, one club, two spades and five diamonds. No triumph, but no disaster either. In the other room Samuel followed the same line of play for the first three tricks but then led a spade up. Osbourne won, played a second diamond through, and when declarer pitched spades from dummy to keep hearts Hinden took the last three tricks with her spades for down six. An uneventful 2 imps to England Hinden.

In England/Denmark-Sakurai both N/S pairs went plus, Sakurai playing 2♣ after Larsen doubled 1♥ as East, then sold out to 2♣, while by sharp contrast Tada, East for Sakurai, bid 2♦, then competed again to 3♠ over 4♥. Nobody doubled him in 4♦ and the defense collected a quiet +100.

The best N/S result came from Hallberg-Black, playing 1♥x for +160 — when you can't beat the opponents looking at K109-seventh of trumps, your luck really isn't in. 7♥x by North wasn't so easy to make (we won't tell you who was declarer but Oh Hyemin and Yasuhiro Shimizu were the defenders).

Bd: 2  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 4  
♥ 83  
♦ AJ108743  
♣ J95

West  
♠ AQ103  
♥ AK96  
♦ K65  
♣ Q10

East  
♠ KJ975  
♥ 7542  
♦ ---  
♣ 8432

South  
♠ 862  
♥ QJ10  
♦ Q92  
♣ AK76

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
		Pass	1♦

Dbl	5♦	Pass	Pass
-----	----	------	------

Dbl	All Pass		
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## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
		Pass	1♣

Dbl	1♦	1♠	Pass
-----	----	----	------

4♠	All Pass		
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Neither pair for Hinden held back here, with 5♦x a heavy favorite to go for at least 500 and 4♠ needing a break in hearts, which it admittedly figured to receive. Shek had done well to pass the double of 5♦ but Bell found diamonds and clubs behaving nicely, so escaped for -200. Meanwhile 4♠ came home without alarm and Hinden led 8-0.

The E/W pairs for Sakurai and England/Denmark both collected +420. No fewer than four E/W pairs racked up 710 against their own games when they defended 4♦x. China Women, India, Katsumata and Imax were the beneficiaries of such generosity.

On the next deal all the E/W tables in the BBO matches stayed out of a slam that required little more than negotiating queen-fifth of clubs for no loser. Then both N/S pairs played 1NT on the normal favorable lead to make eight tricks painlessly.

Bd: 5            North  
 Dir: North     ♠ A3  
 Vul: N/S       ♡ J10532  
                    ♦ K8  
                    ♣ J986

West  
 ♠ KJ854  
 ♡ Q64  
 ♦ J62  
 ♣ 52

East  
 ♠ 1092  
 ♡ K87  
 ♦ A1093  
 ♣ K103

South  
 ♠ Q76  
 ♡ A9  
 ♦ Q754  
 ♣ AQ74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
	All Pass		

Looking at the bidding from this deal you can't help but think that Dick Shek in one room borrowed an ace from Russ Samuel in the other room. Against 2♠ the defenders led and continued diamonds at every turn and took the ruff to go with their five tricks in aces and kings. Down one and a 10-1 lead for England Hinden.

While Sakurai-Kikuchi played 2♥ on an unopposed sequence for +110, Asaoka-Tada continued their campaign of aggression, Asaoka overcalling 1♠ as

West and Tada raising him to 3♠ in competition. Paul Hackett found the ♦K lead and the defenders took their diamond ruff early, then cashed their club winners, declarer putting up the king on the first round. Eventually declarer found himself cut off from dummy, forced to lose two tricks in each suit, for -200 and 3 imps to England/Denmark, who led 4-0.

Bd: 6            North  
 Dir: East       ♠ AK108  
 Vul: E/W       ♡ 9  
                    ♦ Q87653  
                    ♣ 42

West  
 ♠ Q932  
 ♡ AK1062  
 ♦ KJ10  
 ♣ Q

East  
 ♠ 764  
 ♡ 854  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ A98653

South  
 ♠ J5  
 ♡ QJ73  
 ♦ 942  
 ♣ KJ107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	Dbf(♥)	3♣
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣(♥)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Defending 4♥ Shimamura led the ♠A and continued the suit when her partner encouraged. The defense subsequently scored one trump trick for down one. That doesn't feel like a great result for E/W but in the other room Hydes led a top spade and shifted to the devious ♣2 on seeing South's jack. Declarer won the ace and played a spade himself, expecting clubs to be five-one. The defenders cashed their spades and led a fourth spade, ruffed and overruffed, then played a second club. Rasmussen was still assuming North had a singleton club so he ruffed high and to go down three. 5 imps and a 13-1 lead for Hinden.

Asaoka and Blakset each ran into the same defensive cross-ruff and misguessed the ending to go down 300 for no swing. While a couple of E/W pairs were lucky enough to be able to defend doubled diamond contracts (Murata-Den leading the way with a triumphant +1100), the normal result for E/W was a penalty of at least 100.

Bd: 7  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ A10964  
 ♦ 1087  
 ♣ KQJ2

West  
 ♠ 987542  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ Q53  
 ♣ 1097

East  
 ♠ K63  
 ♥ KQJ85  
 ♦ 94  
 ♣ 654

South  
 ♠ AJ10  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ AKJ62  
 ♣ A83

Circle The World picked up an overtrick imp after a nice lead by Rasmussen in dummy's long suit. Bakhshi for England/Denmark climbed to 6♦ after 1♦-1♥; 2NT-3♣; 3♦-4♦; 4♠-6♦. (The 3♦ bid showed five trumps.) After the singleton heart lead Baskhshi won the ace, ruffed two spades in dummy using the ♣A as a hand re-entry, led the ♦10 to his ace, cashed the ♦K, and ran clubs to discard his heart loser. If trumps were three-two his line gained any time the ♦Q was doubleton or the hand with ♦Q had three or more clubs. That was worth 12imps, and the score was 16-0 now.

Four pairs bid and made 6♦, but Dangoon pipped them all by collecting a penalty of 1400 against 3♠x.

Then a gadget paid dividends for the opponents.

Bd: 8  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 862  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ J842  
 ♣ QJ92

West  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ 643  
 ♦ KQ6  
 ♣ K87643

East  
 ♠ AKJ93  
 ♥ 987  
 ♦ 109  
 ♣ A105

South  
 ♠ Q754  
 ♥ KQ1052  
 ♦ A753  
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
2NT(♣)	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

I have a sneaking admiration for Shimamura's raise to 3♥ but her hand was not what her partner was looking for. The defenders cashed their spades and got out with a trump, and declarer got his spade ruff in dummy, but forced himself and never scored his long diamond, for down two.

Meanwhile, 3♣ looks a respectable enough spot but when Shek made the best play for his contract by starting clubs by leading the king, he could not avoid going two down either. That made it 5imps and 20-2 for Hinden.

Bd: 9  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ K9743  
 ♥ J8542  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ 7

West  
 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ AKQ1076  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ QJ54

East  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ 93  
 ♦ J109732  
 ♣ 9632

South  
 ♠ AJ1082  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ AKQ6  
 ♣ AK108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦(1)
2♥	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Three-suiter, strong

The record of the play in 2♥x from the Open Room indicates that the defenders led and continued clubs, which should have produced only a penalty of 200, but West unblocked a club honor under the ace-king and later sacrificed the second honor unnecessarily. Whether or not this is really so, 2♥x went down 500, flattening the board against the 510 achieved after the excessively-hydrated action by North from the Closed Room. No swing; still 20-2 for Hinden.

Both tables in our other featured match reached 6♠ when each might quite reasonably have bid the grand slam. Just six pairs bid the grand slam, while a quarter of the field scored +510 or worse.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 82  
 ♥ AJ863  
 ♦ K765  
 ♣ Q2

West  
 ♠ Q9  
 ♥ 95  
 ♦ J984  
 ♣ K10976

East  
 ♠ KJ107643  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ AJ54

South  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ KQ742  
 ♦ AQ102  
 ♣ 83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
Pass	4NT	4♠	5♦
All Pass		Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
Pass	2♠	1♠	2♥
Dbl	4♥	Dbl	3♠
Pass	5♥	4♠	Dbl
		All Pass	

Both N/S pairs avoided trying to defend 4♠x, which collects 790, but 5♥ played for down one when declarer could draw trumps and cash off two diamonds, then exit in a black suit for a ruff and discard. 5♦ lost the additional trick in diamonds for down two. 3 imps to Circle the World, down 20-5.

In our second match Larsen bought the hand in 4♠ by opening that bid, while Tada opened 1♠ and Bakhshi overcalled 2♥, raised to 4♥, then doubled 4♠. One cannot blame Paul Hackett for sitting for it, can one? That +790 took Sakurai off the schneider, down 5-16.

About one third of the field made +620 or better as N/S while one third of the field made +620 as E/W, the rest defending N/S contracts at the five level and collecting small penalties.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AQJ  
 ♥ KQ1073  
 ♦ Q73  
 ♣ A5

West  
 ♠ 109865  
 ♥ 9862  
 ♦ 62  
 ♣ 62

East  
 ♠ K743  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ KJ94  
 ♣ QJ1073

South  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AJ54  
 ♦ A1085  
 ♣ K984

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
Pass	1♥	Dbl	1♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♥

Both tables reached slam, but Shimamura played to ruff one spade in dummy and then squeezed East in diamonds and spades after leading a diamond to the queen and a diamond to the ten. By contrast, Hydes ruffed two spades in dummy and now just needed the simple finesse of the ♦10 to make 12 tricks.

In the second BBO match both tables played 6♥ by North, but Sakurai (on an unopposed auction) drew trumps rather than playing to ruff spades in dummy and though he took the two finesses in diamonds he had to lose a spade to the king when the finesse failed. That was worth 14 imps to England/Denmark, leading 30-5.

Almost everybody bid slam here but a third of the field went down.

After a quiet 3NT at both tables (Sakurai gaining 6 imps when they stopped in 3♦ and beat 6♦) Hinden picked up two more small swings to put the match away.

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ KJ106  
 ♥ 102  
 ♦ K9  
 ♣ KJ874

West  
 ♠ A987  
 ♥ J96  
 ♦ 742  
 ♣ 1095

East  
 ♠ Q3  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ A10853  
 ♣ AQ6

South  
 ♠ 542  
 ♥ Q8754  
 ♦ QJ6  
 ♣ 32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Dbl	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	Pass	1NT	All Pass

In 1NT Hinden received a heart lead and put up the jack to duck a diamond to South. The defenders played a spade to the king to revert to hearts, and Hinden won to set up diamonds, then won the spade return to run diamonds and endplay North to give her an additional club and spade winner for +150. Nicely done, but the real action would come from the other room.

After the initial club lead to the ten, jack and queen, Shek played ace and another diamond. Hydes exited with the ♥10 and Shek won in hand and cleared diamonds. Bell reverted to clubs and Shek won and ran his diamonds. This was the position as the last diamond was led.

	North	
	♠ K10	
	♥ 2	
	♦ ---	
	♣ K84	
West		East
♠ A987		♠ Q3
♥ J9		♥ K3
♦ ---		♦ 3
♣ 10		♣ 6
	South	
	♠ 542	
	♥ Q87	
	♦ ---	
	♣ ---	

On the last diamond Hydes carefully bared his ♠K. Had he not done so, Shek would surely have cashed the last heart and thrown him in with a club to lead spades. As it was Shek cashed the heart winner and ran the ♠Q, letting Hydes take the last four tricks for down two and 8 imps.

Since Larsen made 3NT for England/Denmark while the other table played a partscore, their lead was up to 40-11. Game was bid and made about as many times as it was defeated, by something like 20 percent of the field. The datum was E/W +190.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ A82
Vul: None	♥ 97
	♦ K10976432
	♣ ---

West	East
♠ J1053	♠ 94
♥ 10864	♥ AK3
♦ Q8	♦ J
♣ A98	♣ KQ107642
	South
	♠ KQ76
	♥ QJ52
	♦ A5
	♣ J53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ras'en</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Shek</i>	<i>Bell</i>
		1♣	Dbl
1♦(♥)	2♣	Dbl	Pass
2♥	5♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osbourne</i>	<i>Shim'a</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
		1♣	Dbl
1NT	3♦	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Shimamura again did not really do justice to her hand when she stopped short of game after hearing her partner double 1♣. Even if these days all doubles just emphasize the unbid majors, an eight-card suit should be enough to cater for partner's indiscretions. 6 more imps to Hinden, winners by 34-5 or 16.88-3.12 in VPs. Hackett played 5♦x for England/Denmark while defending a diamond partscore in the other room, and won 18.17-1.83.

# Match Four: Australia vs Down Under

by Barry Rigal



Hans



Howard



Hollands



Gill



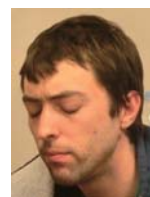
Milne



Newell



Reid



Whibley

Bd: 17  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ 8432  
♥ 98754  
♦ 107  
♣ 42

West  
♠ AK106  
♥ Q  
♦ AK653  
♣ 1085

East  
♠ 95  
♥ AK10632  
♦ Q4  
♣ KJ9

South  
♠ QJ7  
♥ J  
♦ J982  
♣ AQ763

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
	Pass	1♥	DbI
Rdbl	1♠	Pass	Pass
DbI	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Whibley and Milne had a scientific auction as far as 4♥, the five-one trump break not proving a serious problem when the ♥J fell. Whibley gave up a trump and two clubs in due course and collected +420. Not enough. Gill led a trump against 1♠x and Hans won to underlead his diamonds for a second spade. Hans drew a third trump, then cut loose with the ace and a low diamond. When declarer ruffed in all he could

score were his two club winners for down 800.

On Board 18 both E/W pairs stopped sensibly low in game on a hand where slam was mildly tempting but unmakeable. Then they were exposed to temptation again.

Bd: 19  
Dir: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ QJ932  
♥ J107  
♦ J96  
♣ 103

West  
♠ 8  
♥ 983  
♦ KQ532  
♣ 8764

East  
♠ K5  
♥ AQ42  
♦ A8  
♣ AKQ95

South  
♠ A10764  
♥ K65  
♦ 1074  
♣ J2

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>

Auction missing  
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
Pass	4♠	DbI	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Left to your own devices it looks very hard to reach slam on the E/W cards, and it appears to need either diamonds or hearts to behave. But Whibley wrapped up +1370 and Australia led 12-9. The only other pair to bid and make slam were Larsen-Blakset.

Bd: 20  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ QJ6  
 ♥ 96  
 ♦ AKJ104  
 ♣ K103

West  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ KQ43  
 ♦ Q83  
 ♣ AJ942

East  
 ♠ A82  
 ♥ A107  
 ♦ 9652  
 ♣ Q86

South  
 ♠ K107543  
 ♥ J852  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
1♦	1NT	Dbl	2♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2NT	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
1♣	1♦	1♠(1)	Dbl
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

(1) Transfer to 1NT

Just how draconian can one be in one criticism of an undisciplined action such as Howard's 4♠ bid when the game is let through? Howard no doubt expected he might shake dummy's club losers on a diamond lead. However, Gill led a club. So far so bad, but Hans continued the suit and declarer was still in the hunt. When he sneaked the ♠J past Gill he could then ruff a club to dummy, finesse in diamonds, and run that suit to pitch hearts from dummy. The defenders ended up scoring just one heart and a trick in each black suit. Since no one could (or did) double 4♣ for down 200 in the other room, Australia had 9imps and led 21-9.

Plus 620 was not the top board across the field; that honor belonged to Manol Iliev of the Bulgarian All Stars for bringing home 2♠x for +1070.



Peace and...?

Bd: 21  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ Q873  
 ♥ AJ6  
 ♦ K83  
 ♣ J104

West  
 ♠ 1052  
 ♥ KQ10984  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ A95

East  
 ♠ 96  
 ♥ 53  
 ♦ J1092  
 ♣ KQ863

South  
 ♠ AKJ4  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ AQ754  
 ♣ 72

This deal carries no really deep message. Both tables bid and made 4♠ for +620 by N/S despite some competition from West in hearts. What is slightly curious, though, is that this result was achieved by five-sixths of the pairs in the top half of the draw, but only half the pairs in the bottom half of the field. The bridge equivalent of a *pons asinorum*?

On the next deal both N/S pairs handled some opposition intervention to bid to the right game, again for no swing.

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J1098764  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ Q62  
 ♣ 42

West  
 ♠ K32  
 ♥ 8742  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ J8763

East  
 ♠ AQ  
 ♥ J105  
 ♦ AJ85  
 ♣ A1095

South  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ KQ963  
 ♦ K10743  
 ♣ KQ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
			1♥
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
			1♦(♥)
Pass	2♠(WK)	Dbl	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Sometimes the preempters get you, sometimes you



get them. Where Newell was facing a limited (8-13) opening showing hearts, he had a simple and straightforward preemptive response. By contrast, Howard was facing a normal opening bid and had an equally straightforward response at the one level. It is hard to see how Gill could have done any more in the Open Room, but there again 2♠ could be defeated on diamond ruffs. Gill led a low heart and Howard won his ace to play a club up. Gill won his ace and played ace and another diamond, and now had only to win the first spade and lead a third heart to score his side's trumps separately. When he failed to do so Australia had +110 in both rooms, since the play in 3♣ was straightforward. Australia led Down Under 27-9.

Bd: 24  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 973  
 ♥ J32  
 ♦ A1064  
 ♣ J106

West  
 ♠ AKJ64  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ KQ5  
 ♣ AQ87

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ AQ9874  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ K9542

South  
 ♠ Q10852  
 ♥ K105  
 ♦ J932  
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
1♣(STR)	Pass	1♠(♥)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT(FG)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Both pairs made this somewhat tough board look easy. Both set clubs early and used keycard to bid a slam on which the datum score was +380. Nearly a third of the field failed to make 12 tricks. Whibley as East received a diamond lead and continuation, then ruffed a heart in dummy and a spade in hand before ruffing the second heart low in dummy. He could now claim 12 tricks when hearts behaved. Hans as West

received the ♦A lead followed by a second diamond. He played off the ♣AQ before ruffing out hearts with low trumps for no swing; still Australia by 18 imps.

Bd: 25  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 104  
 ♥ 9843  
 ♦ 108543  
 ♣ A7

West  
 ♠ 987  
 ♥ KQ5  
 ♦ AK97  
 ♣ KQJ

East  
 ♠ Q652  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ 1098632

South  
 ♠ AKJ3  
 ♥ AJ762  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ 54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
1NT	2♥	2NT(1)	1♥
3♣	All Pass		Pass
(1) Lebensohl, puppet to 3♣			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
All Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	4♥

Milne cannot have felt happy about passing out 4♥ but he did so and led a top club. Reid could pitch a club on the spades when the finesse worked, but the three-one trump split was just too much to handle. When he went after trumps early he ended up losing two hearts and three diamonds for down two. Since 3♣ went one down to the spade ruff Australia had 5 imps to lead 32-9.

Kudos (or something) to Chen-Furuta, who bid the E/W cards to 3NT, which came home on repeated heart leads. That result was duplicated by Osbourne-Hinden. Meanwhile, at the opposite end of the spectrum for N/S Kodaira-Miyazaki and Shih-Wang pushed their opponents to 5♣x and collected 800.

Bd: 26  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J43  
 ♥ J532  
 ♦ AKJ853  
 ♣ ---

West  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ KQ98  
 ♦ Q1072  
 ♣ Q1072

East  
 ♠ Q10982  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ 64  
 ♣ KJ54

South  
 ♠ AK65  
 ♥ 764  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ A9863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦(♥)	1♠	DbI(Supp.)
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass  
(1) Puppet to 2♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
		Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	2♣(♦)	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room Howard invited game (?) and showed a canape over which Holland's acceptance may have been...optimistic. Declarer took his three diamond tricks and three side winners but nothing else. In the other room 3♠ ran into a dreadful trump break, but after a club lead declarer emerged with two plain winners and six trump tricks. He could not stop East from pitching clubs as he ruffed diamonds, to overruff the fourth club. That made it 32-14.

Amongst those recording big numbers here were Teramoto-Sashira, who bid and made 4♥ for 620 and Tamaru-Ishizuka, who doubled 2♠ by East and collected 1100. (I'm not sure which feat was the more remarkable.) Perhaps special credit goes to Ueda-Nakatani, who passed the board out as N/S.

Bd: 27	North
Dlr: South	♠ J84
Vul: None	♥ A107
	♦ QJ74
	♣ J109

West
♠ Q107
♥ KQ63
♦ 832
♣ A32

East
♠ A3
♥ 9854
♦ 1096
♣ Q876

South
♠ K9652
♥ J2
♦ AK5
♣ K54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
			1♣(14+)
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Newell-Reid put the breaks on in spectacular fashion, stopping in a safe partscore and collecting +110. Meanwhile, 3NT was not without play after the ♥J scored at trick one. Declarer cashed his four diamonds and passed the ♣J to the ace. Hans shifted to an expert ♠10 to Gill's ace for a heart through. Hollands won, repeated the club finesse, and now had nine tricks on top...but thought he could afford to pass the ♠J. Hans won his queen and cashed out the hearts for down one. Oops. That was 32-18 to Australia.

Liu-Shan for Shanghai Financial were the only team to bid and make 3NT here.

Bd: 28	North
Dlr: West	♠ K10763
Vul: N/S	♥ 5
	♦ 10542
	♣ 1075

West
♠ 952
♥ Q7643
♦ Q9
♣ AK8

East
♠ Q4
♥ AJ92
♦ J8763
♣ 43

South
♠ AJ8
♥ K108
♦ AK
♣ QJ962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Reid</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	DbI
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

N/S had a fundamental disagreement about what 2NT should mean here, one taking it as minors, the other as natural. Your editors don't care how they play it so long as they agree, but lean towards the two-suited interpretation. 3♦ went down 300 after Gill's trump lead while 2♠ fetched a quiet +110. It was 32-27 to Australia.

Yoshiyuki Nakamura and Tadashi Teramoto both played 4♠ on a diamond lead and brought it home. Nicely bid — or something.

Bd: 30 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 10  
 Vul: None ♥ QJ76  
 ♦ AQ87653  
 ♣ J

West  
 ♠ A97654  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 42  
 ♣ K962

East  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ K5432  
 ♦ 109  
 ♣ A1075

South  
 ♠ KQ82  
 ♥ 1098  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ Q843

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
2♠	Dbf	Pass All Pass	1♣

Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Milne Newell Whibley Reid*  
 Pass Pass  
 1♠ 2♦ 2♥ 3♦  
 All Pass

It is rare to see anyone open a hand that Newell-Reid would pass, but here the initial pass by South let N/S find their diamond fit in peace and quiet. Whibley led the spade jack to the king and ace. Milne cashed the ♥A (the two from Whibley) and then needed to shift to clubs to get his heart ruff. When he played back a spade declarer could pitch his club and claim +130.

In the other room Hollands' initial action may have been systemically mandatory but his pass of 2♠ looks wild. On a club lead Hans won in hand to unblock his major-suit aces, then lead a club up. When North could not ruff in he was able to discard his diamond loser on the ♥K and bring home his doubled contract. That gave Down Under the lead when it mattered most, and a 39-32 win.

## 19<sup>th</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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	414, 415
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	
	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	503

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