



NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 4

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Down Under Leads Qualifiers in 2014 NEC Cup

At the end of Day Three, Team Down Under (Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell) held on to the top spot with 163.97 VPs, England Hinden (Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell) remained second with 160.87 VPs. Beijing Trinergy (Lu Dong, Li Xiaoyi, Kang Meng, Sun Shaolin, Wang Yanhong) finished third with 152.81 VPs, and Russia (Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnoselskii, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink) finished fourth with 150.95 VPs. Rounding out the qualifiers are NAITO, England/Denmark, the Bulgarian All Stars, and China Women 2. For the KO stage, top seed Down Under chose NAITO as their quarter-final opponent, England Hinden chose China Women 2, Beijing Trinergy chose England/Denmark, which left Russia to play the Bulgarian All Stars. The complete final standings are in the table below while the individual results for Matches 9-12 can be found on page 6.

NEC Cup: Final Standings (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Down Under.	163.97	17	Yeh Bros. Mixed. .	128.30	33	Seoul.	113.63
2	England Hinden. . .	160.87	18	Shanghai Financial.	126.85	34	STEAST.	112.29
3	Beijing Trinergy. . .	152.81	19	IMAX.	126.09	35	Kacho-fugetsu. . . .	111.48
4	Russia.	150.95	20	NANIWADA.	122.32	36	Lucky Corner.	107.67
5	NAITO.	148.01	21	KinKi.	121.71	37	Shiro Gumi.	106.94
6	England/Denmark. .	147.99	22	Japan Youth.	121.28	38	MIURA.	106.50
7	Bulgaria All Stars. .	145.70	23	HOSHI.	121.11	39	SUGIYAMA.	106.41
8	China Women 2. . .	140.70	24	Lorentz.	120.11	40	KATSUMATA.	105.27
9	PYON.	137.17	25	Surfrider.	117.59	41	Friends.	91.12
10	China Women 1. . .	135.25	26	Dangoon.	117.15	42	Korea Hammer. . . .	84.73
11	Yamada.	135.12	27	SARA.	117.03	43	Iza Yokohama V. . . .	81.63
12	Australia.	133.89	28	River Side.	116.87	44	Sang ae.	80.86
13	India.	131.20	29	SAKURAI.	116.85	45	LAS FLORES.	75.32
14	China – Shanghai. .	130.81	30	Kitty's.	116.54	46	Harmony.	44.91
15	England Black. . . .	130.57	31	ESPERANZA.	115.04			
16	FOOTerZ.	130.54	32	Circle The World. .	114.12			

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>
and follow our featured matches on VuGraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature Down Under (1) vs NAITO (5)
and England Hinton (2) vs China Women 2 (8)

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 — 3imps for the 1st 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: 19th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	England/Denmark:	Paul Hackett, David Bakhshi, Lars Blakset, Thomas Larsen
2	England Hinden:	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, 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 Eunjoon, Hwang Mansuk, Im Hyun, Kwon Sooja
16	Korea Hammer:	Chung Isub, Hwang Inryung, 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 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, Sumie Nakagawa
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 Kiriya, 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/em2e6s3v4r2d8nvg8iv5/RoundKO/0/0>

Important Notice About Submitting Lineups

Teams may (at their option) submit their lineup for the 1st and/or 3rd matches each day on the JCBL web site. However, lineups for the 2nd and 4th 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 3rd- or 4th-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

Thursday's Match Results

Team #	Match 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	12	24	7.03	98.18	26	29	13.96	112.14	22	37	15.85	127.99	37	63	20.00	147.99
2	9	29	6.52	115.08	5	23	8.42	123.50	7	57	18.29	141.79	10	66	19.08	160.87
3	3	28	11.58	117.22	9	29	13.96	131.18	8	12	5.58	136.76	4	39	14.19	150.95
4	30	34	14.64	119.14	8	14	5.36	124.50	13	22	4.94	429.44	3	24	5.81	135.25
5	14	52	15.85	110.42	2	28	11.58	122.00	9	32	9.03	131.03	8	18	9.67	140.70
6	8	14	5.58	112.98	13	14	5.15	118.13	10	15	4.94	123.07	26	19	8.13	131.20
7	23	36	14.42	103.36	12	35	12.97	116.33	2	18	1.71	118.04	29	40	15.85	133.89
8	6	30	14.42	124.58	4	31	14.64	139.22	3	28	14.42	153.64	5	19	10.33	163.97
9	2	41	13.48	118.36	3	15	6.04	124.40	5	35	10.97	135.37	13	27	10.33	145.70
10	17	35	12.97	104.50	30	22	10.33	114.83	6	34	15.06	129.89	2	20	0.92	130.81
11	35	45	13.23	97.28	37	35	10.97	108.26	29	22	6.28	114.54	36	60	16.03	130.57
12	1	34	12.97	101.70	7	25	7.03	108.73	35	52	18.65	127.38	30	18	0.92	128.30
13	3	23	8.42	113.23	6	32	14.85	128.08	4	41	15.06	143.14	9	26	9.67	152.81
14	5	29	4.15	96.64	22	11	4.34	100.98	40	27	14.19	115.17	24	23	4.94	120.11
15	36	10	3.45	75.76	39	34	11.28	87.04	33	33	14.85	101.89	25	42	15.26	117.15
16	38	25	5.81	60.18	41	40	15.46	75.64	44	16	4.15	79.79	43	10	4.94	84.73
17	10	25	7.03	98.68	24	22	7.56	106.24	23	11	5.15	111.39	20	39	15.46	126.85
18	32	23	3.12	75.99	25	33	14.19	90.18	46	25	2.37	92.55	21	62	19.74	112.29
19	31	23	15.66	94.10	29	11	4.34	98.44	42	42	8.42	106.86	46	14	6.77	113.63
20	22	15	3.62	83.53	34	48	16.38	99.91	45	31	9.67	109.58	17	18	4.54	114.12
21	46	18	1.96	39.51	42	6	1.35	40.86	36	19	3.79	44.65	18	9	0.26	44.91
22	20	41	16.38	96.55	14	33	15.66	112.21	1	14	4.15	116.36	23	49	18.76	135.12
23	7	20	5.58	94.17	36	21	6.77	100.94	17	29	14.85	115.79	22	6	1.24	117.03
24	29	42	12.97	97.89	17	30	12.44	110.33	30	13	5.15	115.48	14	42	15.06	130.54
25	39	27	10.66	78.48	18	18	5.81	84.29	41	40	17.91	102.20	15	22	4.74	106.94
26	34	39	17.63	99.35	1	23	6.04	105.39	27	78	19.91	125.30	6	25	11.87	137.17
27	42	46	17.34	87.39	45	39	14.42	101.81	26	23	0.09	101.90	31	36	14.64	116.54
28	43	35	14.19	79.57	28	13	10.00	89.57	32	47	17.34	106.91	35	26	8.13	115.04
29	24	32	7.03	92.56	19	33	15.66	108.22	11	35	13.72	121.94	7	17	4.15	126.09
30	4	17	5.36	104.41	10	21	9.67	114.08	24	31	14.85	128.93	12	64	19.08	148.01
31	19	1	4.34	83.18	40	21	3.45	86.63	38	33	14.42	101.05	27	19	5.36	106.41
32	18	52	16.88	88.38	35	6	2.23	90.61	28	15	2.66	93.27	38	29	13.23	106.50
33	40	9	5.15	73.90	38	41	14.64	88.54	15	15	5.15	93.69	41	35	11.58	105.27
34	26	5	2.37	84.79	20	22	3.62	88.41	43	44	17.49	105.90	42	16	5.58	111.48
35	11	34	6.77	90.12	32	41	17.77	107.89	12	10	1.35	109.24	28	32	11.87	121.11
36	15	37	16.55	94.29	23	32	13.23	107.52	37	27	5.36	112.88	11	36	3.97	116.85
37	45	38	16.03	98.65	11	32	9.03	107.68	36	44	14.64	122.32	1	0	0.00	122.32
38	16	40	14.19	63.92	33	24	5.36	69.28	31	17	5.58	74.86	32	18	6.77	81.63
39	25	25	9.34	74.75	15	30	8.72	83.47	21	41	16.21	99.68	44	38	17.91	117.59
40	33	27	14.85	83.66	31	48	16.55	100.21	14	12	5.81	106.02	45	44	15.26	121.28
41	44	40	13.72	60.27	16	19	4.54	64.81	25	4	2.09	66.90	33	30	8.42	75.32
42	27	14	2.66	72.22	21	48	18.65	90.87	19	47	11.58	102.45	34	32	14.42	116.87
43	28	20	5.81	57.34	44	61	17.04	74.38	34	11	2.51	76.06	16	29	15.06	91.12
44	41	27	6.28	59.13	43	31	2.96	62.09	16	39	15.85	78.77	39	2	2.09	80.86
45	37	14	3.97	87.02	27	23	5.58	92.60	20	32	10.33	102.93	40	24	4.74	107.67
46	21	55	18.04	80.85	28	13	10.00	90.85	18	59	17.63	108.48	19	25	13.23	121.71

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

19th NEC CUP Qualifying Datum Rankings (4 matches or more)

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
1	1.36	Valio Kovachev	Vladislav Isporski	Bulgarian All Stars	12
2	1.13	Sartaj Hans	Peter Gill	Down Under	12
3	1.07	Lu Dong	Wang Yanhong	Beijing Trinergy	4
4	1.05	Ayako Miyakuni	Kenji Miyakuni	NAITO	12
5-6	1.04	Frances Hinden	Graham Osborne	England Hinden	12
5-6	1.04	Masayuki Ino	Makoto Hirata	Yamada	9
7	1.02	William Whittaker	Derek Patterson	England Black	12
8	0.99	Li Xiaoyi	Wang Yanhong	Beijing Trinergy	6
9	0.96	Takeshi Hanayama	Yoshiyuki Nakamura	PYON	12
10-11	0.89	Lars Blakset	Thomas Larsen	England/Denmark	12
10-11	0.89	Tadahiro Kikuchi	Hitoshi Tanabe	Japan Youth	4
12	0.84	Masaaki Takayama	Shugo Tanaka	SARA	4
13	0.82	Michael Whibley	Liam Milne	Australia	12
14	0.78	Nobuyuki Hayashi	Hiroki Yokoi	Seoul	11
15	0.68	Sebastiaan Drijver	Sjoert Brink	Russia	9
16	0.64	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Oh Hyemin	Seoul	6
17	0.61	Sun Ming	Patrick Huang	Yeh Bros Mixed	8
18	0.60	Fu Zhong	Hideki Takano	FOOTerZ	9
19	0.59	Yumiko Oda	Naoko Orihara	SUGIYAMA	4
20	0.57	Mizuki Ishibashi	Takumi Seshimo	Japan Youth	5
21	0.56	Tadashi Yoshida	Sue Picus	STEAST	8
22	0.55	Toshiro Nose	Hideo Togawa	NANIWADA	4
23	0.54	Martin Reid	Peter Newell	Down Under	12
24	0.51	Kazuo Furuta	Chen Dawei	Shanghai Financial	12
25	0.44	Subhash Gupta	Rajeshwar Tewari	India	8
26-27	0.43	Wang Wenfei	Ran Jingrong	China Women 1	12
26-27	0.43	Kunio Kodaira	Makoto Nomura	Kacho-fugetsu	6
28	0.42	Tadashi Imakura	Masayuki Ohashi	IMAX	12
29	0.39	Im Hyun	Kwon Sooja	Dangoon	12
30	0.38	Zhang Yu	Wu Shaohong	China Women 2	12
31-32	0.36	Yoshiko Sakaguchi	Toshiko Kaho	Kitty's	4
31-32	0.36	Kyoko Toyofuku	Makiko Sato	Kitty's	4
33	0.34	Kang Meng	Sun Shaolin	Beijing Trinergy	12
34	0.32	Hiroaki Miura	Sumiko Sugino	MIURA	4
35	0.31	Andrey Gromov	Alexander Dubinin	Russia	7
36	0.27	Hisami Kataoka	Junzo Kobayashi	NANIWADA	6
37-38	0.26	Shen Qi	Zhou Lihua	China - Shanghai	9
37-38	0.26	Shunsuke Morimura	Hiroya Abe	IMAX	12
39-40	0.25	Yoko Nenohi	Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty's	4
39-40	0.25	Tsuneo Sakurai	Atsushi Kikuchi	SAKURAI	12
41	0.22	Paul Hackett	David Bakhshi	England/Denmark	12
42-46	0.21	Alex Hydes	Mike Bell	England Hinden	11
42-46	0.21	Sridharan Pad'bhan	Sundarram Srinivasan	India	8
42-46	0.21	Kyoko Shimamura	Russell H Samuel	Circle The World	12
42-46	0.21	Tadashi Teramoto	Kumiko Sasahira	SARA	8
42-46	0.21	Kimiko Kamakari	Misae Kato	KATSUMATA	8
47	0.19	Ryo Okuno	Akira Ohara	FOOTerZ	9
48	0.17	Cao Jiankang	Chen Weiwang	China - Shanghai	7
49	0.15	Evgeny Gladysh	Mikhail Krasnoselski	Russia	6
50	0.13	Masako Otsuka	Takako Fujimoto	Kacho-fugetsu	4
51-52	0.12	Ashley Bach	Pablo Lambardi	Lorentz	12
51-52	0.12	Kazuhiko Yamada	Takahiko Hirata	Yamada	7
53	0.11	Sonoko Namba	Chizuko Sugiura	KinKi	12
54	0.09	Wang Hongli	Lu Yan	China Women 1	12
55-57	0.08	Gan Lin	Huang Yan	China Women 2	12
55-57	0.08	Hideyuki Sango	Nobuko Matsubara	ESPERANZA	10

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
55-57	0.08	Michiko Iwahashi	Sumie Nakagawa	SUGIYAMA	8
58-59	0.07	Shugo Tanaka	Ari Greenberg	SARA	8
58-59	0.07	Akiko Miwa	Makoto Nomura	Kacho-fugetsu	4
60-61	0.06	Jyotindra Shah	Gopal Venkatesh	India	8
60-61	0.06	Masako Sakurai	Junko Tsubaki	HOSHI	12
62	0.05	Stephen Burgess	Gabi Lorentz	Lorentz	12
63-65	0.04	Chen Jun	Fan Guangsheng	China - Shanghai	8
63-65	0.04	Toshiro Nose	Masaru Naniwada	NANIWADA	6
63-65	0.04	Mark LaForge	Timothy Curtis	Lucky Corner	8
66	-0.02	Toshiharu Hirose	Noriko Yagi	River Side	7
67	-0.06	Setsuko Kimura	Harue Iemori	Iza Yokohama V	8
68	-0.07	Satoki Takizawa	Toshiro Yamaguchi	Shiro Gumi	8
69	-0.08	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	Shiro Gumi	8
70-71	-0.09	Toshiko Kaho	Makiko Sato	Kitty's	4
70-71	-0.09	Hiroaki Miura	Kazuko Takahashi	MIURA	4
72-73	-0.11	Sayori Harasawa	Mayumi Tanaka	Friends	8
72-73	-0.11	Toru Tamura	Mimako Ishizuka	KinKi	12
74	-0.12	Katsumi Takahashi	Lee Bokhee	STEAST	8
75	-0.16	Kuniko Saito	Kei Nemoto	Surfrider	8
76	-0.18	Justin Howard	Peter Hollands	Australia	12
77	-0.19	Takashi Sumita	Yoko Fukuyama	Lucky Corner	8
78-79	-0.20	Manol Iliev	Hristo Hristov	Bulgarian All Stars	12
78-79	-0.20	Michiko Iwahashi	Akiko Yanagisawa	SUGIYAMA	4
80	-0.21	Yukiko Hoshi	Megumi Takasaka	HOSHI	12
81	-0.23	Hisami Kataoka	Hideo Togawa	NANIWADA	6
82	-0.26	Fumiko Kimura	Minako Takahashi	ESPERANZA	6
83-84	-0.27	Kenichi Asaoka	Takehiko Tada	SAKURAI	12
83-84	-0.27	Sae Ohashi	Hisayo Goto	Sang ae	5
85-86	-0.29	Ryoga Tanaka	Sakiko Naito	NAITO	12
85-86	-0.29	Yumiko Kawakami	Masakatsu Sugino	River Side	8
87	-0.30	Shih Jue-Yu	Wang Ping	Yeh Bros Mixed	10
88	-0.31	Shan Baisong	Liu Ning	Shanghai Financial	10
89-90	-0.32	Sumiko Sugino	Yoshiko Endo	MIURA	4
89-90	-0.32	Ryoichi Yasuhara	Hiroko Tanaka	River Side	8
91	-0.33	Takako Nakatani	Sachiho Ueda	KATSUMATA	8
92	-0.34	Tadahiro Kikuchi	Tomoaki Nakanishi	Japan Youth	4
93	-0.36	Ryo Matsubara	Ayako Matsubara	Lucky Corner	8
94	-0.39	Koichi Onishi	Taiko Bando	Friends	7
95	-0.43	Atsuko Katsumata	Yasuyo Iida	KATSUMATA	8
96	-0.47	Motomi Shirogane	Etsuko Takano	Shiro Gumi	8
97-98	-0.49	Yang Sungae	Sung Kyunghae	Korea Hammer	12
97-98	-0.49	Yuki Fukuyoshi	Mariko Ueda	PYON	12
99-101	-0.54	Kyoko Toyofuku	Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty's	4
99-101	-0.54	Haruko Koshi	Terumi Kubo	ESPERANZA	8
99-101	-0.54	Hiroaki Miura	Yoshiko Endo	MIURA	4
102-103	-0.57	Cho Eunjoo	Hwang Mansuk	Dangoon	12
102-103	-0.57	Kazuko Takahashi	Sumiko Sugino	MIURA	4
104	-0.58	Yoko Komuro	Shimako Yaji	LAS FLORES	8
105	-0.59	Chung Ilsub	Hwang Iynryung	Korea Hammer	12
106-107	-0.60	Jens Rasmussen	Dick Shek	Circle The World	12
106-107	-0.60	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	LAS FLORES	8
108	-0.63	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada	Yamada	8
109	-0.64	Sae Ohashi		Sang ae	5
110	-0.77	Kazuko Takahashi	Yoshiko Endo	MIURA	4
111	-0.79	Yasuko Sugiyama	Yumiko Oda	SUGIYAMA	7
112	-0.80	Tadashi Teramoto	Masaaki Takayama	SARA	4
113-114	-0.81	Kim Sun Young	Bae In Soon	Harmony	6

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
113-114	-0.81	Junko Den	Yoshiko Murata	Surfrider	6
115	-0.83	Emi Sakata	Midori Ito	Sang ae	6
116-117	-0.85	Andrew Black	Gunnar Hallberg	England Black	12
116-117	-0.85	Kim Yoonkyung	Park Jungyoon	STEAST	8
118	-0.88	Natsuko Nishida	Choi An Hee	Harmony	12
119	-0.89	Osami Kimura	Yasuyoshi Toriumi	Iza Yokohama V	8
120	-0.90	Michiko Shida	Kotomi Asakoshi	LAS FLORES	8
121	-0.96	Yoko Saito	Mamiko Odaira	Friends	8
122	-0.99	Kunio Kodaira	Teruo Miyazaki	Kacho-fugetsu	6
123	-1.23	Yoko Nenohi	Yoshiko Sakaguchi	Kitty's	4
124	-1.40	Chisato Kiriyama	Yoko Shimominami	Iza Yokohama V	8
125	-1.50	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Kim Hyeyoung	Seoul	6
126	-2.49	Kim Sun Young	Choi Eun Woo	Harmony	6

Mr Deschappelles, meet Mr Merrimac

In the Round 6 encounter between Down Under and England Hinden both pairs had an opportunity to show off their skills.

Bd: 26 North
 Dir: East ♠ 103
 Vul: Both ♥ 9843
 ♦ 92
 ♣ KQ965

West
 ♠ 2
 ♥ AKQ75
 ♦ K54
 ♣ 10742

East
 ♠ QJ8765
 ♥ J
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ A83

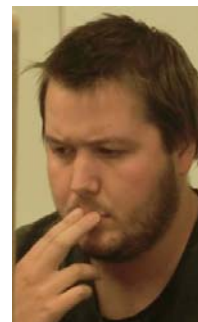
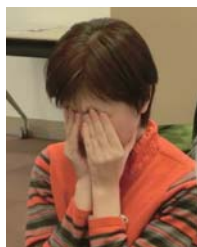
South
 ♠ AK94
 ♥ 1062
 ♦ AJ863
 ♣ J

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♦
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Had East opened a weak 2♠ he might have gone quietly plus in that spot. But 2♠ on Peter Newell's lead of the ♦9 was considerably more testing. Hinden made the first nice play of the deal when she put up the ♦Q from dummy. If South ducks that she can unblock hearts then play diamonds and come home with eight tricks. Reid therefore won the ♦A and responded to declarer's coup with one of his own. He played back the ♦J, forcing declarer to win the diamond in her hand, cutting her off from the heart suit. From that point on declarer had only six winners.

Simon Says, "Put Your Hands On Your Face"



"Your face, dummy!"

Match Nine: China Women 2 vs Lorentz

by Barry Rigal



Bach



Zhang



Wu



Lambardi



Gan



Burgess



Lorentz



Huang

Two of the teams on the outside looking in for qualifying spots met in Round 9. With eighth place sitting at 100 VPs (and perhaps needing about 140 VPs to qualify). Each of these two teams would need to average 12 VPs to make it...or so we thought.

After an unremarkable game for the E/W pairs on Board 1, the action started on the next deal.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A64
♥ AK8
♦ A105
♣ J982

West
♠ J952
♥ Q6
♦ QJ83
♣ 753

East
♠ Q1087
♥ 10743
♦ K4
♣ AQ4

South
♠ K3
♥ J952
♦ 9762
♣ K106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Wu</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gan</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

his opponents had at most 23 HCP and no long suit, so where would nine tricks come from? Answer: with the ♥Q falling and both club finesses working there were not nine but *ten* tricks available. Declarer unnecessarily discarded a heart winner on the fourth club and held herself to nine tricks, but that was still +750 and 12imps (that doubled overtrick would only have been worth a single imp).

Three pairs bid to the game here, Hydes-Bell and Hallberg-Black being the other pairs whose luck appeared to be in.

China led 12-0, which became 13-0 on Board 3 from an overtrick in 3NT for N/S on a hand where 6♦ is a moderate spot. Then...

Bd: 4
Dir: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ J1087
♥ Q1073
♦ AQ8
♣ J3

West
♠ A65
♥ J62
♦ K976
♣ A109

East
♠ K43
♥ A9854
♦ 1042
♣ KQ

South
♠ Q92
♥ K
♦ J53
♣ 876542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Wu</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(GF)	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It is hard to argue with Bach's final double. He knew

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gan</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Huang offered a choice of games, Lambardi somewhat unilaterally did not. Both Souths led a club, won the ♥K, continued clubs, and both Norths ruffed away the ♣A. That left N/S with two trumps, a spade and three diamonds to lose. No swing, and still 13-0 to China Women 2.

In 3NT by West on a spade lead you might win the king and lead a low heart from dummy, duck the next spade, win the third, then lead the ♥J from hand to come respectably close to your game.

Well done Osborne-Hinden for stopping in 2NT, and Masako Sakurai-Junko Tsubaki for coming to rest in 2♥. Both made their contracts on the nose and were amply rewarded for so doing. In our second match Shanghai Financial played 3NT down two on a spade lead for a gain of 5 imps since 4♥ went down 400 in the other room. They led 5-1 now.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AQ98
 ♥ AKQ1054
 ♦ 3
 ♣ Q7

West	East
♠ KJ5432	♠ 1076
♥ 82	♥ ---
♦ A6	♦ QJ984
♣ 1096	♣ AJ542

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J9763
 ♦ K10752
 ♣ K83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Wu</i>
	1♣	1♦(1)	Dbl
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dbl	5♥	All Pass	

(1) majors/minors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gan</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
2♠	3♥	4♠	6♥
All Pass			

I am completely at a loss as to how anyone could pass over a strong club with the East cards (anyone who doesn't show the minors is missing the best opportunity to mess up the opponents' strong club, auction so it grieves me to see both Easts acting so pusillanimously here) and especially to see the hand that passed gain 13 imps. I'm sure that I would have bid exactly as Lorentz did in the Closed Room, and put Burgess in a slam missing two keycards. After a spade lead Burgess thoughtfully ruffed and came to hand with a trump to lead a club up. When East ducked (not by any means clear to do so) declarer won the king but was out of chances as the cards lay.

The Open Room auction timed out much better for N/S though I'm not sure if South had promised a void as opposed to a singleton spade. And she had also done well not to treat her hand as a positive at her first turn. That all added up to 13 imps to China Women 2, leading 26-0.

In our second match N/S played the heart game in both rooms for no swing, but of course that was the exception and not the rule. Only five pairs played the slam and went down, but one N/S pair (don't worry, your secret is safe with us) played 4♠ down five. The Bulgarian All Stars were lucky enough to find their opponents gullible enough to save in 6♠ over 6♥ (haven't you seen Vlad and Valio bid before)? That cost 1100. Meanwhile, Rang Jinrong justified her (and her partner's) exuberance by making 6♥ on the ♣A lead, when the defense did not shift to diamonds.

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ632
 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ AK94

West	East
♠ A95	♠ 1087
♥ AK109874	♥ J652
♦ J9	♦ A63
♣ J	♣ Q76

South
 ♠ J4
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K10852
 ♣ 108532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Wu</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gan</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

After two very similar auctions both Norths led a top club and received a strong suggestion that partner had five and declarer a singleton jack. How now, Brown Cow? Burgess shifted to his singleton heart and declarer won in hand and drew a second trump (North discarding an encouraging spade), ending in dummy. When she led a low diamond from the board Lorentz went in with the king to shift to the ♠J, and declarer was almost out of chances. She ducked, won the next spade and ran her winners but Burgess pitched his diamonds and Lorentz kept his, so whether declarer won the ♦J in hand or the ♦A in dummy she would have to concede trick 13.

In the other room Zhang (seeing the ♣10 at the first trick) may have read some suit preference into that card. She shifted to the ♠K and declarer won, drew a round of trumps, then led a low spade from hand. Zhang, confronted by a binary decision (win or duck), came up with the right answer by ducking but the wrong answer when she followed with her ♠2, suggesting strong suit preference for clubs. Wu took her ♠J and assumed that declarer must be 2=6=3=2 (e.g., Ax AKxxx/QJx/Jx). She exited with a club and Bach pitched his spade and claimed ten tricks. Nicely played. 12 imps to get Lorentz off the mark, trailing 26-12.

Roughly one table in five was allowed to make 4♥ here. Shanghai Financial went down in 4♥ but made 4♦ on the N/S cards to gain an imp and lead 6-1.

Bd: 7	North		
Dir: South	♠ Q10932		
Vul: Both	♥ J852		
	♦ K32		
	♣ J		
		East	
West		♠ 5	
♠ AJ84		♥ Q97	
♥ 6		♦ AQ105	
♦ 9876		♣ A7653	
♣ KQ84			
	South		
	♠ K76		
	♥ AK1043		
	♦ J4		
	♣ 1092		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Wu</i>
			1♥
Dbf	4♥	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gan</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>
			2♥(1)
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
(1) 8-11	five hearts,	balanced	

The gain for Lorentz here derived from the preemptive nature of the 2♥ opening, but I can't say I'm thrilled to see such a random convention score imps in this way. (Such purists, the editing staff.) And since West had two chances to act or balance here maybe it was more about judgment than system. The defenders beat 3♥ on a spade ruff, which was easy enough. What about the fate of 5♣? After a trump lead the play would be quite challenging, but Bach received a heart lead to the ace and a spade shift. He won in hand, led a diamond to the ten and jack, took the trump shift in hand and got to dummy twice by ruffing a spade and repeating the diamond finesse in order to ruff two hearts in hand. Then he could unblock his last trump honor, ruff a spade to dummy, and draw the last trump to claim +600. 11 imps; 26-23 now for China Women 2.

China – Shanghai got on the board in our second match when Furuta misjudged the play in 5♣ and played to drop the ♦K in South instead of taking a second finesse in the suit. That was 13 imps away; game was bid and made at about one quarter of the tables. Pride of place for N/S goes to Lee Bokhee and Katsumi Takahashi of STEAST, who played 3♥x and brought home +730 when the defenders lost their spade ruff and declarer played trumps for no loser. Well done.

At both tables the E/W pairs did well on Board 8 to stop in a sensible partscore where there was some prospect of trying a 3NT contract without enough meat on its bones (Shanghai Financial did just that). Lorentz completed the comeback on the next deal.

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ KQ842		
Vul: E/W	♥ 975		
	♦ AK63		
	♣ 6		
		East	
West		♠ AJ5	
♠ 10973		♥ A3	
♥ KQ10642		♦ J10752	
♦ ---		♣ Q54	
♣ 873			
	South		
	♠ 6		
	♥ J8		
	♦ Q984		
	♣ AKJ1092		

Open Room
 West North East South
Bach *Zhang* *Lambardi* *Wu*
 1♠ Pass 2♣
 Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦
 Pass 3♥ Pass 5♦
 Pass Pass Dbl All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
Gan *Burgess* *Huang* *Lorentz*
 1♠ Pass 1NT (1)
 Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦
 All Pass
 (1) Almost GF relay

Wu elected to force to game; Lorentz had a mechanism to invite game and chose it. The defense cashed their three major suit winners (the two hearts, then a spade through declarer) and exited in clubs. Zhang timed the play nicely to cross-ruff to a three-card ending where she had two losing spades in hand and a small trump while East had J107 of trumps and dummy had a club and the ♦Q8. Now a spade from declarer created a trump elopement on East for just one more winner for the defense. (Note for the uninitiated: an elopement is bridge argot for “A neat play in the trump suit whose name I do not know.”)

In the other room Yan led a trump against 3♦. He got in again on the third round of clubs when declarer discarded a heart, cashed the ♥A and led a trump at every turn thereafter, which had the effect of holding declarer to eight tricks. Nicely done in the play in both rooms by the Chinese, don't you think, to hold the loss to 6 imps. It was 29-26 now to Lorentz.

Shanghai Financial picked up 6 imps by making 3♣ in one room and beating it three tricks via diamond ruffs in the other, Chen Dawei leading a suit-preference low heart as West against that contract. They trailed 12-18 now. Four Norths made 3NT on a low diamond lead; about a quarter of the field were doubled in 5♦, typically for -500.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East ♠ K5432
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ5
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ 65

West East
 ♠ AJ98 ♠ 10
 ♥ 763 ♥ 9842
 ♦ 1094 ♦ J62
 ♣ 1042 ♣ QJ983

South
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ AQ10
 ♦ K873
 ♣ AK7

Open Room
 West North East South
Bach *Zhang* *Lambardi* *Wu*
 Pass Pass Pass 1♣(STR)
 Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT
 Pass 2NT Pass 3NT
 Closed Room
 West North East South
Gan *Burgess* *Huang* *Lorentz*
 Pass Pass Pass 1♣
 Pass 1♥(♠) Pass 1NT
 Pass 2♠ Pass 2NT
 Pass 3♦ Pass 3♥
 Pass 4♦ Pass 4♥
 Pass 5♦ Pass 6♠
 All Pass

The Open Room auction is a model of simplicity, the Closed Room auction saw the symmetric Relay identify North with a 5=3=3=2 pattern by the 3♦ bid, then a maximum with 8 controls (using a 3-2-1 scale), then K-K-A in the three other suits. Lorentz hoped to buy a hand such as KJ10xx/Kxx/Axx/xx plus a minor-suit queen, when 6♠ (or 6NT) would be cold, the advantage of 6♠ being the extra possibility of a trump coup. Nice idea but absolutely the wrong day for it. 6♠ went down 200 against the bad trump break and China Women 2 led 39-29.

Only one-third of the field managed to go plus in game; they included China – Shanghai, extending their lead to 32-12. Setsuke Kimura and Harue Iemori were the only E/W pair who doubled 6♠ and collected 500 — for a matchpoint top.

It is very difficult to bid this hand scientifically, isn't it? Simply switching the ♥Q and ♠J in South (or the ♥J and ♠J in North) make a hopeless slam a good one. But we do have one pair who produced a scintillating auction to stay out of slam for the right reason; step forward Messrs Brink and Drijver. They bid:

North	South
	1♣(2+)
1♠	2♦(18-20)
2♥(1)	2♠ (three-card)
2NT	3NT
4♣(2)	4♥(3)
4♠	Pass

- (1) Enough values for slam to be in the picture
- (2) Slam interest in spades
- (3) Over 4♣, 4♦ shows good trump and 4♥ shows bad trump

Strangely enough the pair had a similar auction the day before to stay out of a slam that was bid in the other room, missing the AQ of trumps, but this one made. I suppose what goes around comes around.

Bd: 11
Dir: South
Vul: None

North
♠ J10973
♥ 5
♦ 109
♣ AK965

West
♠ 652
♥ AK82
♦ K6532
♣ 4

East
♠ Q
♥ QJ964
♦ J7
♣ J10872

South
♠ AK84
♥ 1073
♦ AQ84
♣ Q3

Open Room

West <i>Bach</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Lambardi</i>	South <i>Wu</i>
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Closed Room

West <i>Gan</i>	North <i>Burgess</i>	East <i>Huang</i>	South <i>Lorentz</i>
1♥	1♠	5♥	1♣(STR)
All Pass			Dbl

Wu's strongish notrump kept his opponents silent and Zhang transferred his way to 4♠ with no apparent "alarums and excursions." Not so in the Closed Room, where Lorentz's strong club brought out all the inherent machismo that is one of the common features of the Chinese ladies teams. "Take that" said Huang, boosting the auction to the five level. When N/S elected to defend, an initial trump lead was surely called for. After that, declarer might have gone after diamonds and been held to nine tricks at most. But the defenders cashed their three plain winners and declarer could scramble the rest. 8imps to China Women 2, leading 47-29 now.

Both tables avoided trouble on Board 12 with plenty of winners but three fast diamond losers. Then...

Bd: 13
Dir: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q87
♥ J93
♦ KJ765
♣ Q4

West
♠ 94
♥ K72
♦ A109432
♣ 53

East
♠ KJ1063
♥ AQ10
♦ 8
♣ A1098

South
♠ A52
♥ 8654
♦ Q
♣ KJ762

Open Room

West <i>Bach</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Lambardi</i>	South <i>Wu</i>
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	All Pass	2♣	Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Gan</i>	North <i>Burgess</i>	East <i>Huang</i>	South <i>Lorentz</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Like beauty, I suppose a strong club is all in the eye of the beholder and Huang decided her three tens constituted extra high cards. No harm came of it when she put down her dummy in 2♦. Declarer won the heart lead in hand, guessed spades, then came to the ♦A to play another spade. She managed a trump endplay at the end to hold her losers to three diamonds and one spade. No drama there, mate.

Bach won the heart lead in dummy to play a diamond to the ace and another low diamond from hand. He was heavily punished for his indiscretion when the defenders won and shifted to clubs. Even though he guessed the spades, he was left with six losers, and China Women 2 had won 52-29, putting a severe dent in Lorentz's chances of advancing to fight another day.

Bd: 14
Dir: East
Vul: None

North
♠ AQ2
♥ AK109
♦ AJ5
♣ Q65

West
♠ J8743
♥ 73
♦ KQ8
♣ A73

East
♠ 6
♥ Q654
♦ 9732
♣ K842

South
♠ K1095
♥ J82
♦ 1064
♣ J109

Both our tables played 3NT as North and made it on a heart lead. With the ♦KQ onside declarer could establish an extra trick in each minor. By contrast, in Shanghai Financial versus China – Shanghai both Wests (who had opened 1♠) led a top diamond against 3NT. Both Souths won the diamond but there the paths diverged. Zhou Lihua went after clubs and the defenders cleared diamonds, letting East cash out when he got in with his surprise ♥Q. Liu Ning found a very neat alternative after winning the ♦A. He cashed one top spade and led the ♥10. East won and cleared diamonds, but declarer won the third diamond in hand and ran the ♠10, then crossed to the ♥J, took the long spade, and ran the hearts for nine tricks.

Match Ten: NAITO vs China – Shanghai

by Rich Colker



Ayako M



Shen



Zhou



Kenji M



Chen



Tanaka



Naito



Cao

Entering yesterday's tenth match, several Japanese teams were in the thick of it to qualify for one of the top eight spots. PYON and NAITO were two of the hopefuls, but each had their work cut out for them being matched against England/Denmark and China – Shanghai, respectively. Our primary focus will be on the NAITO match with a follow-up of England/Denmark-PYON.

East and West in the Open Room are Kenji and Ayako Miyakuni. For clarity (and brevity) we will refer to them simply by their given names.

Board 17 was a boring 3NT by West with ten top tricks, and that's what each declarer took. Almost every other table did the same; 13 more of these and the report would be done in half an hour.

Bd: 18
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ K
♥ K86
♦ K6432
♣ 10754

West
♠ Q104
♥ A532
♦ Q97
♣ J82

East
♠ A9875
♥ 109
♦ 105
♣ KQ96

South
♠ J632
♥ QJ74
♦ AJ8
♣ A3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ayako	Shen	Kenji	Zhou
		1♠	Dbf
2♥(1)	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbf	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
(1) Good 2♠ raise			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cao	Naito
		Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
(1) ART constructive diamond raise			

N/S in both rooms arrived at the good 3♦ contract, Shen-Zhou in the face of significant competition, Tanaka-Naito unimpeded. The play in the Closed Room was strange. Cao won the opening spade lead and switched to a low club. Naito flew ace, played a low heart to the king (Cao following with the ten) and led a club back. Cao won the queen and switched to the ♥9, looking for a ruff, and Chen duly returned the suit. Cao ruffed and got out with the ♣9. Naito ruffed, ruffed a spade, then led a diamond to the ten, jack and...seven! Thus went the setting trick, and Naito could now cash the ♥J to pitch dummy's losing club and claim the rest for +110.

The play in the Open Room started the same way, but Zhou ducked the club to the jack at trick 2. Ayako switched to a low heart to the ten and jack, followed by a spade ruff and a losing diamond finesse. Now the ace and a second heart allowed Kenji to ruff, and when he exited with a club to the ace Zhou claimed seven tricks for down two, –200, when there were two different lines to hold it to down one (ruff a low spade, setting up the jack, then play the ♦K and a diamond to the ace and his hand would be good; alternatively, cash the good ♥Q, pitching a club from dummy, then ruff a spade, ruff dummy's last club, and take the last two tricks with the ♦AK). That was 7 imps to NAITO.

The board was split almost 5-50 between those making partscores one way and those going down, the datum being N/S+10. Pyon defeated 2♥ and

made 3♦ to go into a 5-0 lead.

On Board 19 both Easts declared 3NT and took ten tricks after a minor-suit lead. Still 7-0, NAITO.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ J9876
 Vul: Both ♥ A64
 ♦ 642
 ♣ Q5

West ♠ AKQ432 ♥ 93 ♦ K8 ♣ K102	East ♠ 10 ♥ KJ852 ♦ QJ9 ♣ J874
--	--

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ A10753
 ♣ A963

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Naito</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Obviously Kenji's 2♥ bid did not promise traditional two-over-one values, and by the same token Ayako's 2♠ rebid was non-forcing. Still, a plus is a plus. Shen led the ♣Q. Zhou won the ace and returned a suit-preference three to the king. Ayako cashed the top three spades, noting the five-one break, then played king and a second diamond. Zhou won and led a low club. Shen ruffed and tabled a heart. But Ayako was up to the task (Zhou had already shown up with two aces) and rose with the king to claim eight tricks; +110.

In the Closed Room Chen was not about to allow Cao to get out below game once he responded to the opening bid. On a normal spade break nine tricks would likely still have been challenging, but as it was 3NT was on a wing and a prayer. Naito led the ♦3 to the king and when Cao called for the ♥9 Tanaka rose with the ace to preserve his partner's presumed heart entry and led a second diamond. Naito won, cleared the diamonds, rose with the ace when Cao led a club up, cashed her diamonds, got out with a club and eventually scored her ♥Q for down two, +200. That was 7 moreimps for NAITO, ahead 14-0.

In another match Osborne, playing with Hinden, declared 2NT as West. He won the diamond lead in

hand and cashed the ♠AK, getting the bad news, as South pitched a low club. From that he inferred that South had the longer clubs but without the queen. Backing his judgment, he tabled a low club, dummy's jack winning, and then played a club back to the...king(!), dropping the queen, and eventually came away with eight tricks for one of the few other plus scores for E/W on this difficult deal. PYON for example lost 200 in 3NT but still gained 5imps against 3NT down 400 from the other room.

What looked like a dull board in our featured match was a hand where all roads apparently led to ten tricks when both Easts declared 3NT on Board 21. No swing. Still 14-0. But in our second match one pair missed game while one pair voluntarily took themselves to a minor-suit game down 150. An eccentric 7imps to England-Denmark, trailing 10-7.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ J986
 Vul: E/W ♥ AJ1032
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ ---

West ♠ AKQ ♥ 4 ♦ J965 ♣ 108753	East ♠ 542 ♥ KQ9 ♦ K10 ♣ AJ642
--	--

South
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ 8765
 ♦ 873
 ♣ KQ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
		1♣	Pass
2♦(1)	2♥	3♣	3♥
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Good club raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Naito</i>
		1♣	Pass
2♣	2♥	3♣	3♥
5♣	All Pass		

In the Open Room Zhou led the ♥7 against 3NT and Kenji must have been reasonably pleased when dummy appeared. He captured Shen's ten with the king, crossed with a spade, called for a club, and that's when the bottom fell out. He rose ace, crossed to a spade, played a diamond to the ten, got out with a club, and won the low heart return with the nine. All of which is to say that he thrashed about for a bit like a fish with a hook in its mouth — and then the defense mercifully claimed for down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Chen's 5♣ bid must have come with the caveat, "No double, no trouble." Cao had to lose the obvious four tricks for down two, -200, and we can imagine his relief when he later found out they had pushed the board. Still 14-0, NAITO.

Did we say "No double, no trouble"? When Fukuyoshi-Ueda virtually duplicated the Closed Room sequence as E/W, Bakhshi doubled the stakes and walked away with 500. Since Larsen-Blakset had stopped low in 3♣ and made that contract, the lead changed hands at 19-10. Two pairs brought home 3NT as East after a heart lead and continuation, when the "safety-play" of leading a low club from the East hand reaped unexpected dividends when South followed low to avoid crashing his partner's ace. What is the Japanese for "oops"?

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ AJ
 Vul: Both ♥ 10643
 ♦ A8
 ♣ KQ754

West
 ♠ K975432
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 7643
 ♣ 108

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ AKJ92
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ AJ63

South
 ♠ Q106
 ♥ Q875
 ♦ KJ109
 ♣ 92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Dbl
4♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Naito</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Discretion was the better part of valor in the Closed Room when Cao reluctantly passed his partner's 3♠ run-out. Good discipline. Not so much for Kenji, whose wife must have stared daggers at him when he persisted with 3NT in the face of her 3♠ run-out and even more so when *she* had to play 4♠ doubled. (The weather may not have been the only source of chill in the Miyakuni bedroom last night.) Against Chen's 3♠ the ♣Q lead was taken in dummy, two

diamonds were pitched on the ♥AK, a heart ruffed, and the ♣10 led. Tanaka won the king, played ace and a diamond to Naito's nine, overruffed when Naito played a third diamond and declarer ruffed low, and now the defense had four tricks with two trump tricks still to come. Down two, -200. Cheap at twice the price.

Back to the Marriage Game. Ayako won the ♣K lead, pitched a club and a diamond on the ♥AK (better than pitching two diamonds), ruffed a club, then got out with a low spade to Shen's jack. Now came three rounds of diamonds followed by a fourth round, ruffed and over-ruffed. Zhou still had a trump trick to come for down three, +800, and 12 imps to China - Shanghai, who had closed to within 2 imps at 14-12.

Just in case the Senior Editor is accused of chauvinism we want to point out that one East did even better, declaring 3NTx down 1100, when his partner decided against running to 4♠ in case she heard 4NT next. Since her teammates were losing 800 in 4♥x with the N/S cards one could argue that it hardly mattered.

Board 24 was everyman's 4♠. The trumps behaved, the diamond finesse lost, two +420s for no swing.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ AK1084
 Vul: E/W ♥ K5432
 ♦ ---
 ♣ J32

West
 ♠ Q73
 ♥ 976
 ♦ 10952
 ♣ K94

East
 ♠ J5
 ♥ AQJ10
 ♦ 87
 ♣ AQ876

South
 ♠ 962
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AKQJ643
 ♣ 105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
	1♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	1♠	2♣	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both Easts led their doubleton diamond and declarer pitched three club losers as East ruffed, then exited with the ♠J. Here the two lines of play diverged slightly. In the Closed Room Tanaka played the ♠8 at trick 5, which Chen astutely ducked to prevent

dummy's ♠9 from becoming an entry to the diamonds. Next Tanaka led the ♥K. Cao won and tried to cash the ♣A but Tanaka ruffed, ruffed a second heart with dummy's ♠9, cashed the ♦J pitching a heart and led another diamond; down one.

In the Open Room Chen cashed the ♠K at trick 5. When the ♠Q failed to drop he played along similar lines to Tanaka by leading the ♥K. Kenji won, played the ♣A, ruffed by Shen, then came a heart ruff, the ♦J (pitching a heart), and a fifth diamond. Ayako could ruff but that was still nine tricks for down one and a push. Still 14-12, NAITO.

Sue Picus, playing with Tadashi Yoshida, also played 4♠ as North on a diamond lead and found a way to come to ten tricks. (4♠ is, in fact, cold on a diamond lead, though not on the lead of a club or the ♥A.) She won in dummy and continued with top diamonds, pitching her clubs as East ruffed the third round. East then tried the ♣A. Sue ruffed and got out with a heart. East won and continued clubs as Sue ruffed again, cashed the ♠A (noting the fall of the jack), ruffed a heart, cashed the ♦J pitching a heart, then continued diamonds. West could ruff in whenever he wished but Sue could always ruff another heart in dummy for her tenth trick.

PYON regained the lead 20-19 against England/Denmark when Blakset led the ♠J against 4♠ and could not work out to shift to clubs on winning the heart. When he played a diamond, the play transposed into the winning line above. By contrast, Ueda led the ♣A against 4♠ for PYON; problem, what problem?

The best results for N/S came from playing diamonds. You might be surprised that one South was allowed to make 5♦x for +550 (we can tell you how but then we'd have to kill you) but we're sure that Surfrider (Saito and Nemoto) and River Side (Yasuhara and Tanaka) enjoyed defending 2♦x by West for 1100 at least twice as much.

Bd: 26	North		
Dir: East	♠ 1054		
Vul: Both	♥ K92		
	♦ KJ52		
	♣ KJ9		
	West	East	
	♠ KJ932	♠ A7	
	♥ ---	♥ A10876	
	♦ AQ843	♦ 107	
	♣ 732	♣ AQ54	
	South		
	♠ Q86		
	♥ QJ543		
	♦ 96		
	♣ 1086		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ayako	Shen	Kenji	Zhou
		1♥	Pass
1NT(1)	Pass	2♠	All Pass
(1) 5+ spades			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Tanaka	Cao	Naito
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Miyakunis' auction in the Open Room seems more than just a bit conservative (fallout from Board 23?), but a lot of things had to be right for game in spades to make here. But of course most of those things worked. Kenji chalked up ten fairly easy tricks by ruffing hearts in hand (Zhou led the ♦9, ducked to the jack) for +170.

In the Closed Room Chen-Cao were more normally aggressive and reached the sensible 3NT contract. Again the ♦9 was led, which Tanaka oddly (at least to our weary eyes) ducked to declarer's ten. (Were he and Naito playing Rusinow leads vs notrump?) Cao now passed the ♦7 to the jack. Tanaka found the heart shift to the eight and jack (club from dummy), won the low heart return to the with the ace, and played the spade suit to best advantage (note: declarer no longer had a diamond to reach dummy if the spade finesse lost). Cao cashed his spade winners, the ♦A, and eschewed the club finesse to score up +600; 10 more imps to China – Shanghai, taking over the lead at 22-14.

NAITO picked an overtrick imp on each of the next two deals, in 2♥ on Board 27 and in 1NT on Board 28. The score stood at 22-16 (while England/Denmark led by 5 imps) when the next board hit the table.

Bd: 29	North		
Dir: North	♠ Q953		
Vul: Both	♥ KJ64		
	♦ J73		
	♣ A6		
	West	East	
	♠ K2	♠ AJ874	
	♥ Q98	♥ A5	
	♦ 10854	♦ AK96	
	♣ Q1083	♣ 75	
	South		
	♠ 106		
	♥ 10732		
	♦ Q2		
	♣ KJ942		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Zhou</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	1♦	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Another conservative auction for Kenji in the Open Room. Could this one be the winner? On the ♥3 lead Kenji tried the queen, king, ace, then got out with a low club. Zhou rose with the king, led a second heart to the jack, and a third heart came back which Kenji ruffed. Another club went to the ten and ace and Shen now led a diamond. Kenji won the ace, cashed the ♦K, played a spade to the king, then tried to cash the ♣Q, ruff low, over-ruff. Kenji got out with a diamond to Shen's jack and pitched his last diamond on the heart return as Zhou ruffed but then had to give up the last two tricks to Kenji; +110.

The "C"-guys were more aggressive here and climbed to the ambitious notrump game. Naito led the ♣2 and Cao took the deep finesse and came up roses when Tanaka won with the ace. Tanaka led back a club to the king and Naito found the ♥3 switch, 8, J, A. Next Cao led a spade to the king, a spade to the jack, cashed the ♦A, then tried the ♠A. When that failed to bring rain he went back to diamonds, cashing the king and then playing a low one. Tanaka won and cashed his good spade and heart cards for down one, -100, and 5imps back to NAITO, who pulled to within a single imp at 22-21.

Blakset-Larsen stopped in 2♦ for +110, but that only held the loss to 3imps when Bakhshi-Hackett reached 3♥ after an inelegant 1♥ opening from Mr H, down 200.

One imp was as close as NAITO would come. On the final board both Easts played 3♠ and went two down for a push, China – Shanghai just nosing out NAITO 10.33-9.67 in VPs. Still in contention, but a few opportunities missed. England/Denmark picked up a partscore swing to win by 6imps; not good enough to put them in a qualifying spot, but better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.

Images of our game



And laying a finger aside of his nose.
And giving a nod up the chimney he rose.



"Do you see the family resemblance? It's in the eyebrows."



"14 boards and not one plus score?"

Match Eleven: England Hinden vs Australia

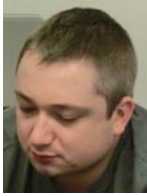
by Barry Rigal



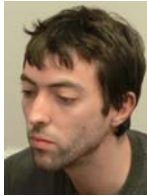
Milne



Hydes



Bell



Whibley



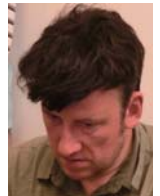
Hinden



Howard



Hollands



Osborne

Two of the teams on the bubble would take on one another in Round 11. Hinden (leading the event three matches ago) had suffered four small losses and would need to avoid a fifth if they wanted to stay the right side of the cutoff. Australia had just experienced two small wins to move into ninth place. In our other match China Women 2 take on Bulgarian All Stars; here both teams were favorites to advance if they just avoid any serious accidents.

expected for a two-suited action. Whibley's 4♥ bid looks over the top, but there again Milne would surely have competed to game over 3♦ (a game-try in one or the other major). Ten tricks were straightforward enough despite the unfriendly lie of the major honors once trumps broke two-two.

Remarkably, this table saw the sole result other than 4♥ making ten or eleven tricks.

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ KJ4
♥ K9
♦ Q6542
♣ 853

West
♠ AQ1063
♥ A7643
♦ A7
♣ 2

East
♠ 98
♥ QJ105
♦ KJ9
♣ QJ104

South
♠ 752
♥ 82
♦ 1083
♣ AK976

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A103
♥ Q7
♦ 84
♣ K108732

West
♠ K542
♥ AJ82
♦ QJ3
♣ 96

East
♠ QJ96
♥ K54
♦ AK9
♣ AQJ

South
♠ 87
♥ 10963
♦ 107652
♣ 54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milne	Hydes	Whibley	Bell
	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♣	3♣	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hinden	Howard	Osborne	Hollands
	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♣	2♦	2♥	All Pass

Both Souths were devotees of *La Passionaria*, whose motto if you will recall was "No pasaran" (they shall not pass). In the Closed Room Osborne's gentle raise to 2♥ did not tempt Hinden to do more. Clearly one of East or West was out of synch with what was

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milne	Hydes	Whibley	Bell
		2NT	Pass
3♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥(♠)	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hinden	Howard	Osborne	Hollands
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(GF)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Osborne treated his hand as 18-20 and Hinden wasn't looking for anything more than game when the spade fit never came to light. Whibley found the club finesse was working during the auction and drove to slam when his partner made a slam try for spades. Declarer won the club lead and crossed to dummy to play a spade towards his hand. Hydes rose with the ace and tried to give his partner a club ruff, and when declarer had passed that hurdle all he needed was to avoid a heart loser, and the heart finesse was the indicated play, of course. No luck there; 11 somewhat randomimps away.

Fifteen tables played slam down; only Yasuko Sugiyama and Chizuko Sugiura for KinKi were lucky enough to receive a heart lead and make the slam.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ K10
 Vul: E/W ♡ 4
 ♢ Q7532
 ♣ 109864

West
 ♠ 2
 ♡ KQ985
 ♢ K98
 ♣ AJ75

East
 ♠ QJ73
 ♡ J10762
 ♢ J4
 ♣ Q2

South
 ♠ A98654
 ♡ A3
 ♢ A106
 ♣ K3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
			1♠
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
			1♠
Dbl	2♠	2NT(1)	4♠
All Pass			

Howard's raise to 2♠ stole the pot for Hollands when no one could double 4♠ — and yes, Osborne might well have done so. 4♠ lost two trumps, a diamond and two clubs for down 100, small beer when 4♡ fetched a painless 10 tricks. Bell did his best when he underled his ♢A when in with the ♡A, but declarer was unlikely to get that wrong on the auction. That made it 17-11, Australia.

In our second match the Chinese Women 2 picked up the same swing against the All Stars when a strong club put Iliev-Hristov into defensive mode as E/W. They competed to 3♡, then sold out and let their opponents play 4♢ down two, while Shaohong-Yu

overcalled an opening of 1♠ with hearts and played 4♡ for +620. They led 12-0. The datum here was E/W +220, so relatively few pairs found their way to game.

An overtrick imp on the next deal made it 18-11 before Hinden started a charge.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ A86
 Vul: N/S ♡ 9654
 ♢ 2
 ♣ KQ863

West
 ♠ KQJ3
 ♡ K2
 ♢ AK98
 ♣ 1094

East
 ♠ 1054
 ♡ A107
 ♢ Q765
 ♣ AJ7

South
 ♠ 972
 ♡ QJ83
 ♢ J1043
 ♣ 52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♡(♠)	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3NT is not the sort of contract that stirs men's souls (nor Francis Hinden's for that matter). After a low club lead she knocked out the ♠A and rumbled ten tricks in double-quick time. 2♣xx by contrast was a trifle more stimulating. Hydes led his singleton diamond and declarer badly misjudged the play when he won and went after trumps. The winning line for nine tricks is simply to cash your two spades early, then play the ♢Q, ruffed by North, who exits in hearts. Now you can cash the ♡K and ♡A and take a diamond finesse. North can ruff but you have trump control and all he scores is one spade and three trump tricks.

As the play went, though, after three rounds of trumps Hydes could win, set up hearts, and take three trumps, two hearts and the ♠A. 12imps to Hinden instead of 8imps the other way. They led 23-18. (Again we were very much in the right place at the right time: Every other table in the field made 3NT.)

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ K7643
 Vul: E/W ♥ 102
 ♦ AJ5
 ♣ 1042

West
 ♠ J10
 ♥ A87
 ♦ 9643
 ♣ QJ98

East
 ♠ A952
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ K653

South
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ K96543
 ♦ K72
 ♣ A7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
		1♣	1♥
1♠(1)	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	1NT	2♥

All Pass

(1) Denies spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
		1♣	1♥
1♠(1)	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♥

All Pass

(1) Denies spades

Both tables played 2♥, Whibley giving some thought to putting his partner in a second redoubled contract on the trot, to see if he could do any better this time. Both tables led a top club against 2♥, ducked. Hinden continued the suit and declarer won and finessed in diamonds to let Osborne win and play a third club. When declarer ruffed and went to dummy with the ♦A to play trumps, Hinden took the king with her ace and shifted to spades. Osborne won his ace and returned the suit, then got in again with the ♥J and played a third spade to promote the trump eight for down one.

Bell ducked the club and the defenders shifted to the ♠J. Bell won his queen returned a spade, covered all around, then ruffed a club to lead a low heart to the ten and jack. He ruffed the next club and got out with the ♥K, pinning the queen and avoiding any trump promotion. Though he had to lose a diamond at the end he had eight tricks, making the score 27-18.

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ A9532
 Vul: Both ♥ A6
 ♦ K75
 ♣ Q86

West
 ♠ J86
 ♥ 952
 ♦ AQ863
 ♣ 53

East
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ QJ8743
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AK1097

South
 ♠ K74
 ♥ K10
 ♦ J10942
 ♣ J42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	2♠	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	2NT(1)	3♠
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
(1) ♥+♣			

Whereas Whibley was prepared to sell out to 3♠, Osborne showed his suits and then decided he was worth another effort. 3♠ lost three clubs, the ♦A and a ruff, but that was it. 4♥ looks as if it should just be a quiet one down as well, but Howard found the disastrous diamond lead which allowed Hinden to discard both spades and go after clubs before trumps, making +650 for 11 imps. It was 38-17 now.

4♥ made a remarkably large number of times here: 17 out of 46. However, on 10 of those occasions *one defender or the other led a spade*.

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q52
 Vul: None ♥ J10965
 ♦ A
 ♣ K863

West
 ♠ 97
 ♥ A73
 ♦ K43
 ♣ A10752

East
 ♠ AJ8643
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ Q9

South
 ♠ K10
 ♥ 42
 ♦ J1098765
 ♣ J4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
1♣	1♥	2♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
1♣	1♥	Dbl(1)	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT but whereas Bell as South had a reason to lead diamonds, ending all real chance of defeating 3NT, Howard had the heart sequence on lead. He led a heart and Hinden won in hand and passed the ♠7. When Hollands won that a diamond shift was surely going to be futile (declarer was known to be two-three in the majors and thus surely had three-five or four-four in the minors. If the defenders lead a second heart Howard rates to get in again on the third spade to clear hearts. Now, after six spades and three hearts, North can pitch three clubs and a heart and leave declarer to read the ending. As it was, though, all that resulted was an overtrick to Hinden, up 39-17.

Of course 4♠ has decent play with the club honors as they are, since declarer may be able to build a discard for himself on the diamonds. But the entries to dummy to lead a low diamond from there are very poor. When Zhang declared 4♠ she received a heart lead and used her entry to dummy to play trumps unsuccessfully, then lost a trick in each minor at the death. By contrast, Hristov started out the same way (heart, spade, heart, ♠A, spade) but when he ran two more trumps South, who had discarded two diamonds already, pitched two further diamonds. Reading the position perfectly, Hristov ducked a diamond in both hands and guessed the clubs when North returned the suit. Very nicely done; 10 imps for his pains to make the match score 13-13.

Bd: 9	North
Dir: North	♠ AK8
Vul: E/W	♥ 62
	♦ KQ1096
	♣ J86

West	East
♠ 1092	♠ Q54
♥ AKQ3	♥ 954
♦ 82	♦ 54
♣ A432	♣ KQ1095

South
♠ J763
♥ J1087
♦ AJ73
♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Dbl	2♦	Dbl	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

The defense to 1NT was not unduly taxing. Osborne (or should it be Hosbourne, as in Hertford, Hereford Hampshire, Hinden, Howard, and Hollands, hurricanes hardly happen) led a top club. The defenders cashed out but earned style points in the process by overtaking the first club for a second club back, then shifting to a heart for a third club through. Against 2♥ Hydes led a top diamond and Bell overtook to play the ♥J. I think declarer could have afforded to duck this, but he won and tested trumps, then ran the clubs. North gave count to let South ruff the fourth club and lead diamonds, allowing the defenders to tap out declarer and hold him to seven tricks. That was 5 imps to make it 44-18.

While Isporski brought home 2♦ here as North, Iliev played 2♥ as West after balancing over 2♦. The defenders led a diamond and Ling overtook to return a spade. Yan won the ace to return a low spade (sneaky stuff) but Iliev flew with the queen and had eight tricks. All Stars led 19-13 now.

Bd: 10	North
Dir: East	♠ K42
Vul: Both	♥ AK
	♦ AQ7
	♣ K10432

West	East
♠ A9	♠ QJ10
♥ 1073	♥ 9864
♦ KJ10943	♦ 652
♣ 96	♣ A75

South
♠ 87653
♥ QJ52
♦ 8
♣ QJ8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bell</i>
		Pass	Pass
3♦	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Hinden</i>	North <i>Howard</i>	East <i>Osborne</i>	South <i>Hollands</i>
2♦	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣(♠+♥)
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

3NT was an excellent contract — one more likely to make than a spade partscore — but both fetched ten tricks today. In the Closed Room North thought he was making a slam try but in context facing a passed partner (and especially given that he had already underbid his hand more than somewhat) maybe he should just have jumped to 4♠ and not worried about making slam, since partner could never be about to cuebid after each player's initial action. All of this meant 10 more imps to Hinden, up 54-18.

The Chinese missed game after an interrupted strong club auction, and the All Stars lead was up to 29-13 with four deals to go. The fact that the datum here was 560 implies that very few pairs failed to bid and make game.

A flat game (played by Australia in a slightly safer strain and by the All Stars in slam off the two top spades) led to a rousing finish.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ A3
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ1054
	♦ K
	♣ AKJ92

West
♠ Q8642
♥ Q92
♦ ---
♣ Q8653

East
♠ 5
♥ K
♦ QJ1098653
♣ 1074

South
♠ KJ1097
♥ 8763
♦ A742
♣ ---

Open/Closed Rooms

West <i>Milne</i> <i>Hinden</i>	North <i>Hydes</i> <i>Howard</i>	East <i>Whibley</i> <i>Osborne</i>	South <i>Bell</i> <i>Hollands</i>
Pass	1♥	4♦	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

We'd all be happy to play 6♥ here until the defenders took their ruff a trick one, as happened in the Closed Room. Osborne introduced a Grosvenor gambit into the equation by leading a spade to the first trick. Declarer flew with the king and led a low trump from dummy to the two....and ten. Osborne won and gave his partner the ruff; no swing.

While Zhang Yu saved in 5♦x down 1100, her teammates showed how it should be done. After a

two-suited 2♠ opening by West, Yan doubled, Hristov jumped to 5♦, Ling doubled, and Yan tried 5NT: pick a slam. Ling bid 6♥ and there they were, in slam the right way up. After that it would have been a shame to finesse in trumps and run into a ruff wouldn't it? Ling made no such mistake and recorded +1430, as did Sjoert Brink on an almost identical auction. Two declarers brought home slam on a spade lead when they too negotiated the trump suit successfully.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ 82
Vul: Both	♥ 2
	♦ QJ987642
	♣ J3

West
♠ KQ96
♥ A9754
♦ AK10
♣ 10

East
♠ J543
♥ KQJ83
♦ ---
♣ KQ96

South
♠ A107
♥ 106
♦ 53
♣ A87542

Open Room

West <i>Milne</i>	North <i>Hydes</i>	East <i>Whibley</i>	South <i>Bell</i>
4♦	3♦	Dbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
All Pass		6♥	Dbl

Closed Room

West <i>Hinden</i>	North <i>Howard</i>	East <i>Osborne</i>	South <i>Hollands</i>
4♦	3♦	Dbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass	6♦	Pass

While Hollands was too much of a gentleman to double, Bell felt no such restraint. Both slams went down a trick, of course, and our esteemed Senior Editor pointed out that West's use of Blackwood surely guaranteed a length control in diamonds, so showing a void wasn't such a smart idea. Well, even a blind pig finds an acorn from time to time.

So I'll give you your chance to win back your money from yesterday; how many pairs went down in slam here? Answer: 22 out of 46. Sometimes a little learning is indeed a dangerous thing.

That 3 imps made it 57-18, and when both E/W pairs bid to a thin and making 4♠ on the final deal (missed by the Chinese Women to allow the All Stars to take back the lead in their match) Hinden had virtually guaranteed their qualification while simultaneously virtually eliminating their opponents.

Match Twelve: England/Denmark vs NANIWADA

by Barry Rigal



Naniwada



Hackett



Bakhshi



Togawa



Larsen



Kobayashi



Katayoka



Blakset

As they reached the final bend and turned into the final straight, the Hackett team were under the lash, needing (we figured) a win by 13-7 or so to make the cut. Of course the same applied to their opponents (or maybe they needed a little more). In our second match Russia were taking on China Women 1, the former needing to avoid a blitz to qualify, the latter needing a draw or so to make it.

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q76
 Vul: None ♥ K83
 ♦ A53
 ♣ J952

West
 ♠ 9854
 ♥ A10964
 ♦ 864
 ♣ K

East
 ♠ AK3
 ♥ QJ52
 ♦ 1092
 ♣ AQ10

South
 ♠ J102
 ♥ 7
 ♦ KQJ7
 ♣ 87643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Naniwada	Hackett	Togawa	Bakhshi
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Larsen	Kobayashi	Blakset	Kataoka
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT(!)	All Pass

You can decide for yourself whether you are more offended by East's rebid in the Closed Room or surprised by East's final raise to game in the Open

Room. But since 4♥ is a very respectable contract (even on a diamond lead it is no worse than the heart finesse) one should not argue too much with East's decision to bid on. Not an auspicious start for Naniwada; 1NT made a peaceful +120 and England/Denmark had 5 imps. Would this start a trend?

China started brightly, stopping in 3♥ after a 14-16 notrump, and defeating 4♥ by West when Ran led a diamond in response to her partner's lead-directing overcall over a strong club. In fact, the only table to bid and make game here was Hinden in the top-of-the-table clash with China – Shanghai.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ A96
 Vul: N/S ♥ K8542
 ♦ J8
 ♣ J95

West
 ♠ J1084
 ♥ A3
 ♦ AK543
 ♣ 74

East
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 97
 ♦ 9762
 ♣ AKQ632

South
 ♠ KQ532
 ♥ QJ106
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ 108

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Naniwada	Hackett	Togawa	Bakhshi
Larsen	Kobayashi	Blakset	Kataoka
		3♣	All Pass

Both Easts failed to recognize that their partnership's combined assets of 20 HCP belonged in slam — or at least in 3NT or 5♦. They opened 3♣ and played there, sorrowfully recording +170 in each room.

This was a partscore deal almost everywhere, except that China Shanghai returned the favor from the previous deal to bid and make 3NT against Hinden. Would that have been a top? No. Kim and Park for STEAST defended 4♠...down 600. I'm not sure I want to know the details, do you? And even that was topped by Patterson-Whitaker, who defended 4♥x down 800, covering their teammates' -420.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ J
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ1084
 ♦ A1083
 ♣ QJ2

West
 ♠ 7542
 ♥ K
 ♦ K75
 ♣ 98764

East
 ♠ K983
 ♥ 975
 ♦ QJ962
 ♣ 5

South
 ♠ AQ106
 ♥ A632
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AK103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	3♠(SPL)	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			6♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	4NT
All Pass			6♥

All Pass

Both tables reached slam, but the England/Denmark crew, bolstered by the Acol influences of both countries, used four-card majors to reach it from South. After the ♠7 lead to dummy's jack East ducked, but declarer unerringly led a trump to the ace, planning two diamond ruffs in his hand, and claimed 13 tricks when the ♥K put in an appearance.

In the other room East's club lead gave declarer nothing, and now the trump finesse looked normal. But West won his ♥K and took the club ruff to set the slam. That made it 19-0 to England/Denmark (we'd call them E-D but this would sound too much like a Cialis commercial).

In 6♥ Ran Jingrong as North received a spade lead

and followed a very thoughtful line when she rose ace, played ♦A and ruffed a diamond, then led a low trump from dummy. That virtually insured her +980, good for 14imps when Bas Drijver went down in the grand slam. 19-0 now for China Women 1.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ K92
 Vul: Both ♥ A94
 ♦ Q1043
 ♣ 865

West
 ♠ AJ73
 ♥ Q106
 ♦ 65
 ♣ J973

East
 ♠ 85
 ♥ 72
 ♦ AK987
 ♣ KQ102

South
 ♠ Q1064
 ♥ KJ853
 ♦ J2
 ♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dbl	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	All Pass	

Both tables declared 2♥ on a diamond lead to the king and a club shift. Bakhshi ducked the club, won the next, then advanced the ♦J. The defenders took this and played a third club, and Bakhshi ruffed and played ace and another heart to the king, planning to cash diamonds to shake his spade losers. An easy route to eight tricks? Well, in the other room declarer also ducked the first club, won the second, then led a heart to the king and finessed. West won, cashed his ♠A and put his partner in with the ♦A to lead a third diamond to promote the ♥10 for down one. 5imps to England/Denmark, now leading 24-0.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ KQJ74
 Vul: N/S ♥ J432
 ♦ 53
 ♣ 109

West
 ♠ 985
 ♥ Q10
 ♦ KJ104
 ♣ KQJ6

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ K976
 ♦ Q98
 ♣ A8743

South
 ♠ A1032
 ♥ A85
 ♦ A762
 ♣ 52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣(♠)	Pass	2♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	DbI	Pass
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

This sort of board exemplifies bridge at the top. Even vulnerable at teams, when the opponents have found a fit you cannot afford to sell out. Yes, one time in ten the earth falls in on you and you go for 500 and lose 10 imps. But three times in ten you pick up a partscore swing — and sometimes more.

In the Open Room 2♠ took the routine eight winners; likewise in the Closed Room eight tricks were the limit. England/Denmark had 5 imps, and led 29-0.

The field was almost exactly split between those who sold out to 2♠ and those who competed. Russia gained 5 imps by being amongst the aggressors. It was 19-6 now in that match.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ K104
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ10987
	♦ J8
	♣ J9

West
♠ 8653
♥ Q63
♦ 32
♣ 10653

East
♠ AJ72
♥ ---
♦ Q10975
♣ AKQ7

South
♠ Q9
♥ K542
♦ AK64
♣ 842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
		1♦	Pass
Pass	1♥	DbI	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
		1♦	Pass
Pass	1♥	DbI	3♥
All Pass			

The auction from the Closed Room suggests a difference in style. The 3♥ bid was interpreted by North as preemptive (which it should be, shouldn't it?) while South doubtless intended it as limit. 4♥ hinged on nothing more than losing no trump trick. Both declarers knew to play West for length and wrapped up 10 tricks, but England/Denmark had their fifth sizeable pick-up in six deals and led 35-0.

If Naniwada were to come back they needed to start quickly. The next deal was a slam on two finesses (both working) but neither side got there, England/Denmark at least exploring the possibilities. Then both sides reached a 4♥ game on a hand where ten tricks needed either a favorable lead (provided by Bakhshi in his side's bid-and-supported suit) or finding the ♣J, which Lars Blakset managed to do. No swing; still 35-0 while China still led 19-6.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ J72
Vul: E/W	♥ AK53
	♦ 7
	♣ 109763

West
♠ Q3
♥ QJ10742
♦ KJ10
♣ J5

East
♠ K106
♥ 8
♦ AQ942
♣ AQ84

South
♠ A9854
♥ 96
♦ 8653
♣ K2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♠
DbI	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Without access to the system files or the tangled workings of Lars Blakset's psyche I can't be sure his 2NT bid was correcting a non-forcing or mildly invitational sequence. And was 1NT a transfer to clubs? One hopes so. Either way, 3NT was a perfectly respectable sequence and after a spade lead to the jack and king Blakset smoothly led a low club from hand, ducked equally smoothly by South. This may be the right play in the abstract, but not today. It hardly mattered, since all it did was generate

a couple of irrelevant overtricks, given the +130 from the other room. The lead was 46-0.

Both tables in Russia-China Women 1 played 3♥ by West. Russia played for ruffs and collected +200 while China played on spades and conceded 170. That made the score 19-15 for China Women. Pride of place in the comparisons goes to Hinden (collecting 800 from 4♥x in one room and making 3NT+1 in the other). Still, kudos to Tada-Asaoka for Sakurai who managed +950 from 3NTx+1.

Bd: 26 North
 Dir: East ♠ A853
 Vul: Both ♥ K92
 ♦ 108
 ♣ J864

West
 ♠ 92
 ♥ AQJ8
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ Q10975

East
 ♠ KJ104
 ♥ 43
 ♦ AKJ743
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ 10765
 ♦ 965
 ♣ AK2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

You can absolutely understand both of the Easts' approaches here. Togawa was right in that he was in a safe partscore, on a deal where 3NT would have gone down on a spade lead, while Blakset was right in practice. After a club lead to the king Kataoka shifted to a heart to the queen and king; Kobayashi equally accurately shifted to spades. All that accuracy was to no avail when Thomas Larsen (Otto to his friends) rose with the ♠K claiming nine tricks when it held. That made it 56-0, and concluded the scoring till the very final deal of the set.

Meanwhile, Russia added another 10 imps and took the lead in the set 25-19 when they bid and made 3NT after a spade lead to the queen and a shift by Wenfei to the ♥7, Q, K. Ran now fell from grace by shifting to a diamond instead of a club, and that was +630 instead of -100 for Dubinin. Yes, maybe Wenfei

could have cashed one top club before playing a heart...

The next deal determined who would take the eighth qualifying spot.

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ J82
 Vul: None ♥ AJ532
 ♦ J86
 ♣ 76

West
 ♠ A103
 ♥ K987
 ♦ 105
 ♣ KQ82

East
 ♠ KQ765
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AQ74
 ♣ J1095

South
 ♠ 94
 ♥ Q1064
 ♦ K932
 ♣ A43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lu</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	1♥	Dbl(♠)	3♦(♥)
Pass	3♥	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Jingrong</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Open Room clubs were unbid, so Drijver led them and the defense played two rounds of the suit. Declarer elected to draw a couple rounds of trumps and take a diamond finesse, allowing the defenders to take the club ruff to leave declarer with just nine tricks. On both a double-dummy and single-dummy basis, declarer should have come home by simply taking the diamond finesse at trick three. Although the defenders can take a ruff you get to ruff a diamond low and a diamond high when the suit breaks four-three with the length on your left. Now the outstanding trumps are two-two you can then draw them all without loss. In the other room on a completely different auction North's lead of the ♥A did not paralyze declarer, and Dubinin made 11 tricks in a canter. That meant a 39-24 win for Russia and tears before bedtime for his opponents.

Bd: 30
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K863
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ KJ84
 ♣ 532

West
 ♠ Q104
 ♥ J8752
 ♦ A73
 ♣ 64

East
 ♠ A52
 ♥ K6
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ AKJ987

South
 ♠ J97
 ♥ 10943
 ♦ 10965
 ♣ Q10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Togawa</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Dbl	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kataoka</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Dbl	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

While 3♣ lost a trick in each suit, Kataoka led the ♦10 against 3NT. Kobayashi allowed this to run to declarer's queen. Blakset laid down the top clubs, acknowledged the fall of the queen as his due, and cashed out for ten tricks and a further 7 imps for a 63-0 shutout and a very impressive 20-0 win in VPs, when it really mattered.

19th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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	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

Registration For Weekend Events

Anyone planning to play in:

Yokohama IMP Pairs	Friday 14 th
Yokohama Swiss Teams	Saturday 15 th
Asuka Cup	Sunday 16 th

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening