



# NEC Bridge Festival

Saturday, February 15, 2014  
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## It's England Hinden vs Russia in the NEC Cup Final

The boys are back in town! Team Russia (Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnosselski, Sjoert Brink), the fourth qualifier, will face second qualifier England Hindon (Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell) in today's NEC Cup final. Team Hindon led their semi-final match against Down Under by just 8 imps at the half, but picked up 25 imps in the second half to win by 33. Team Russia trailed their semi-final opponent Beijing Trinergy by a single imp at the half, then won the second half in a 50-5 blowout to take the second spot in today's final. Good luck to the two finalists and congratulations to all the other qualifiers who gave us such a rousing day of playoff bridge yesterday. Note: the web address of the page containing real-time match updates changed from the qualifying rounds, to the quarter-finals, to the semi-finals, to today's final. (Sorry for not letting you know sooner but we just found out ourselves. We hope to have this changed next year so that one address will get you to the updates throughout.) Check out page 5 for the address of the real-time updates site for today's final, and watch Vugraph at the Bridgebase address listed at the bottom of this page.

### Quarter-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
Down Under	.5	55	57	112
NAITO		8	39	47
England Hinden	.5	18	44	62
China Women 2		16	31	47
Beijing Trinergy	.5	34	35	69
England/Denmark		33	34	67
Russia	.5	66	40	106
Bulgaria All Stars		39	38	77

### Semi-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
Down Under	.5	36	28	64
England Hinden		44	53	97
Beijing Trinergy	.5	48	5	53
Russia		47	50	97

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)

## 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)

IMP s	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost	IMP s	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

# 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

## Team Rosters: 19<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup (KO Stage)

#	Team Name	Members
1	Down Under:	Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell
2	England Hinden:	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell
3	Beijing Trinergy:	Lu Dong, Li Xiaoyi, Kang Meng, Sun Shaolin, Wang Yanhong
4	Russia:	Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnoselskii, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink
5	Japan NAITO:	Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Ayako Miyakuni, Kenji Miyakuni
6	England/Denmark:	Paul Hackett, David Bakhshi, Lars Blakset, Thomas Larsen
7	Bulgaria:	Valio Kovachev, Vladislav Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov
8	China Women 2:	Zhang Yu, Wu Shaohong, Gan Ling, Huang Yan

### Real-Time NEC Cup Match Updates on the Web

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

<http://jcbl.willnet.ad.jp/Global/ki916whx88qjpw71cgj7/RoundKO/0/0>

(Note: this is a different address than the previous ones)

### Important Notice About Submitting Lineups

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.

## Round 7 Analysis (Revisited)

Mark LaForge pointed out a mistake in the bulletin analysis, on a deal where his partner had outplayed at single dummy the double-dummy analysis provided by the Junior Editor. So here is the deal again, this time with the line played by Toby Curtis.

Bd: 4  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 432  
 ♥ Q7  
 ♦ 632  
 ♣ J9763

West  
 ♠ 1097  
 ♥ KJ103  
 ♦ J987  
 ♣ 42

East  
 ♠ J865  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K1054  
 ♣ AQ105

South  
 ♠ AKQ  
 ♥ A98652  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ K8

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Mark put down his dummy while congratulating himself on offering his partner more than he usually did. Toby won the spade lead in hand (nice play!) and led a heart up. West flew with the king and returned a spade, letting Toby win and play a heart to the queen. When the bad news came to light he led a club to his hand, cashed the third spade and the ♥A, then exited in clubs. East could win and lead either a spade or a club to let South ruff in, but then whether West overruffed or not he would be endplayed to open up diamonds for declarer.

It doesn't help for West to duck the first trump. So long as declarer uses his dummy entry to play clubs he can strip West of the black suits, eventually endplaying him in trumps.

## Yokohama IMP Pairs — 46 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Derek Patterson	William Whittaker	1832
2	Kyoko Shimamura	Russell H Samuel	1399
3	Sundarram Srini'san	Sridharan Padman'han	1296
4	Wang Hongli	Lu Yan	1251
5	Hiroya Abe	Shunsuke Morimura	1240
6	Gunnar Hallberg	Andrew Black	1197
7	Wang Wenfei	Ran Jingrong	1024
8	Tadashi Teramoto	Kumiko Sasahira	976
9	Masayuki Ino	Makoto Hirata	964
10	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	857
11	Takahiko Hirata	Kazuhiko Yamada	700
12	Jens Rasmussen	Dick Shek	658
13	Park Jungyoon	Akihiko Yamada	579
14	Kazuo Furuta	Xi Yuheng	547
15	Tomoaki Nakanishi	Tadahiro Kikuchi	488
16	Peter Hollands	Liam Milne	380
17	Nobuko Matsubara	Hideyuki Sango	363



Yokohama IMP Pairs: Winners



Yokohama IMP Pairs: Runners Up

## Beginners Cup (under 20 MP) — 17 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Mitsuko Aoki	Setsuko Ouchi	185
2	Masao Ito	Kimi Kobayashi	111
3	Naoyuki Kimura	Kuniko Nakajima	99
4	Hiroko Katai	Michiko Wakiya	81
5	Kimio Nagasaki	Takao Watanabe	71
6	Chizu Wakabayashi	Hiroko Isomura	63

## Beginners Cup (under 5 MP) — 6 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Mariko Kamata	Yukari Nakadate	57
2	Shigeyoshi Saito	Hiroko Inomoto	31
3	Mikisuke Seiki	Kazuko Sano	-20

## Debutante Cup — 15 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Yugen Watanabe	Takaaki Iwata	236
2	Megumi Chino	Makiko Inoue	155
3	Tomoko Hatori	Ikuko Katagiri	151
4	Yoshiko Hirose	Atsuko Seki	150
5	Toyoko Kimura	Mikiko Fukui	125
6	Atsuhiko Nitta	Hitoshi Ikeda	32



Beginners Cup (20): Winners



Beginners Cup (5): Winners



Debutante Cup: Winners

# NEC Quarter-finals (1<sup>st</sup> half): Down Under vs NAITO

by Barry Rigal



Miyakuni A



Gill



Miyakuni K



Reid



Tanaka



Naito



Newell



Hans

Bd: 1  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ KQ10  
♥ 74  
♦ QJ32  
♣ AKQ5

West  
♠ 86432  
♥ KQJ108  
♦ 84  
♣ 8

East  
♠ A5  
♥ 932  
♦ 1075  
♣ J10963

South  
♠ J97  
♥ A65  
♦ AK96  
♣ 742

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miyakuni A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miyakuni K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
	1♣(STR)	1♠(1)	1NT
3♥	Dbf	All Pass	

(1) take-out of spades

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT was under no pressure on a club lead, but even after a heart lead declarer would simply have ducked twice and made ten tricks. 3♥x was more stimulating. Dummy was in context a very desirable five-count, except for the fact that in the context of a voluntary entry into the auction West might have hoped for just a few more trumps and a few more HCP from her partner. One has the impression that Ayako might be getting used to that feeling by now.

Gill did well to start trumps and the defenders pressed on with that suit at every turn. But when

spades were three-three Ayako had seven tricks in the majors and NAITO had a 4-0 lead.

It was possible to do significantly worse at the three level with the E/W cards, as Iliev discovered. He heard 1♣(2+) to his left and 1♦ (multi-purpose) to his right. He tried 2♣ for the majors and heard his partner bid 3♣, doubled for take-out. He redoubled for rescue; he is still waiting. Our first 2200 of the tournament; 18 imps to Russia.

Bd: 2  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 98632  
♥ 10  
♦ 653  
♣ 9542

West  
♠ 10  
♥ AQ9852  
♦ 1042  
♣ K106

East  
♠ K75  
♥ 743  
♦ J987  
♣ QJ8

South  
♠ AQJ4  
♥ KJ6  
♦ AKQ  
♣ A73

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miyakuni A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miyakuni K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
1NT(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Dbf
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT

All Pass  
(1) One-suiter  
(2) Pass/correct

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♥	Pass	3♥	3NT
All Pass			

Well done by both E/W pairs, who stepped into their opponents' sequence at a level that made finding spades much harder than it would otherwise have been. Naito might have passed 3♥ if she was sure her partner was going to double or bid 3♠, but she wasn't. She played 3NT on a heart lead and went after spades, East winning and running hearts. Note that had the spade finesse lost 4♠ would have had four losers on an early club lead, while 3NT makes.

In the other room, where Hans suggested a 2♣ opener by his combined actions, Gill might have bid on over 2NT, I suppose. Ayako led a diamond rather than a heart and declarer drove out the ♠K, but this time for +180 and 9imps. Down Under led 9-4. If they are good enough to bid...

Neither table led a heart against 3NT by South in Beijing Trinergy-England/Denmark but Lars Blakset's spade lead left declarer with nine tricks while Sun Shaolin's club lead somewhat fortuitously set up two club tricks to go with the three major-suit winners. Beijing led 12-0.

The Bulgarians got on the board when Gladysh-Krasnoselskii sacrificed in 4♥x for 500 while Brink-Drijver played 3NT down on a heart lead; 18-12, Russia.

Bd: 3 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ QJ9  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q1062  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ J983

West  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ J107654  
 ♣ Q10742

East  
 ♠ K82  
 ♥ AJ87  
 ♦ Q98  
 ♣ AK5

South  
 ♠ 1076543  
 ♥ K943  
 ♦ K2  
 ♣ 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
Pass	1♦(PRE)	1NT	2♠
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣	Dbl
Pass	3♠	3NT	All Pass

(1) Minors or other strong hands

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
Pass	3♠	Dbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

We have all been in worse spots than 3NT after a spade lead, but so long as the defenders do not mess up their entries, South is in good position to set up and run spades, even when the clubs behave. As it was, Kenji won and played diamonds. Gill took his ♦A and cleared spades, leaving declarer with just seven tricks. That being so, one could argue that Down Under were a little unlucky (but only a little since 5♣ might go down on diamond ruffs when clubs were breaking). The four-one club break killed 5♣ and Down Under had 3imps to lead 12-4.

Both tables made game in Beijing-England/Denmark. Larsen's 3NT was allowed home when the defenders led spades but ducked the ♦A, while Kang-Sun bid to 5♦. The Chinese Women had the same accident in defending 3NT but an adjusted score after a misexplanation of the auction from the other room held their losses to 3imps. Both tables in Russia-All Stars played 5♣ down one after a Multi 2♦/weak 2♠ from South.

Bd: 4 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ KQ8  
 Vul: Both ♥ Q653  
 ♦ J653  
 ♣ 96

West  
 ♠ 754  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ AQ42  
 ♣ J8732

East  
 ♠ AJ93  
 ♥ K842  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ AKQ104

South  
 ♠ 1062  
 ♥ J1097  
 ♦ K10987  
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
1♦	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣(2A)	Pass	7♣	All Pass

(1) Relay forcing 2♦

(2) Further relay guaranteeing clubs

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Newell relayed four times facing diamonds or both minors, and found his partner with a minimum, then



a canape pattern, then 3=1=4=5, and finally four controls. So he settled for the small slam without even being confident that this would be cold. Kenji found an opening bid with real club support and gambled that his spade loser would go away. Yes, there was probably something more scientific available, but as they said on Reginald Perrin "I didn't get where I am today..." 16 imps to Down Under, with everybody else collecting +1370. Well done.

The Down Under lead grew to 29 imps when on the next deal a defensive error let through 2♠ while Hackett's four-card major style scored a goal by letting his side stop in a making 1NT with a balanced hand with a five-card major facing three-card support. That made it 12-6 now for Beijing.

Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 108654  
 ♥ Q1042  
 ♦ J86  
 ♣ 10

West  
 ♠ AJ972  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ 42  
 ♣ 98754

East  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ AJ53  
 ♦ AQ5  
 ♣ AKQ62

South  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ K876  
 ♦ K10973  
 ♣ J3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables were weighed in the balance and found wanting. Ayako showed two controls facing her partner's game force, then transferred into spades and offered notrump. Kenji had no reason to imagine extra shape opposite. When Reid showed spades and a minor, then a minimum (he claimed afterwards that he was on the cusp of upgrading, which might give you a feel for the partnership preempting style) Newell gave up in game without exploring any further. Going plus would have been worth a swing in one of our matches, since the Russians overreached to 7♣ and went down a trick. Incidentally, if

the grand slam is played by West on a trump lead are you supposed to take the spade finesse first in case you can drop the spade honors early and can discard diamonds from East?

Osborne-Hinden bid to 6♣ and gained 13 imps to lead 16-0. Larsen-Blakset picked up the same swing for England/Denmark to take the lead 18-12.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q102  
 ♥ 75  
 ♦ K86432  
 ♣ 84

West  
 ♠ K6  
 ♥ A43  
 ♦ Q975  
 ♣ A963

East  
 ♠ 983  
 ♥ KQ8  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ KJ10752

South  
 ♠ AJ754  
 ♥ J10962  
 ♦ J10  
 ♣ Q

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
1♣	1♦	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦(KC)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Kenji sniffed around for slam here, but finding wasted diamond values opposite made the prospect unattractive. Nonetheless, when the spade finesse unexpectedly worked Ayako had 12 tricks, and held the loss on the board to 1 imp when 3NT produced +460 on an untesting defense. 34-5 for Down Under. Not surprisingly, nobody bid the slam here.

Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ Q109873  
 ♥ 987  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 764

West  
 ♠ K642  
 ♥ K63  
 ♦ 107  
 ♣ J1083

East  
 ♠ J5  
 ♥ AJ2  
 ♦ KJ3  
 ♣ AQ952

South  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ Q1054  
 ♦ Q986542  
 ♣ K

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
	3♠	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Reid did well to upgrade his hand to a constructive 3♣ bid and Newell had enough to drive to game now. Had North led a heart (and he might well have done so after South did not double 3♠) the defense would have prevailed, but the spade opening lead acted as a reverse-Deschappelles, taking out South's entry prematurely. After South shifted to a diamond, North returned a heart. Reid ran this to his hand and took a club finesse, endplaying South to concede the ninth trick in one red suit or the other. 3♠x looks a horrid contract, and when Kenji led the ♣A and shifted to a low trump, Gill would surely have settled for 500. Undaunted, he crossed back to hand with the ♦A and played on hearts. The defenders won and went back to hearts, but Gill ruffed the fourth, cashed his two hearts, ruffed a diamond back to hand and plonked down the ♠Q to escape for -300 and 7 imps in the in-column.

Elsewhere, China Women 2 reached 3NT, making nine tricks on Hydes' club lead, but Hinden as West went low after the double of 2♠ and played 3♣ for +150; 10 imps away. It was 16-6 to Hinden now.

Blakset made 3NT for England/Denmark while Bakhshi stole the hand in 3♦ as South for -100 and 11imps to take the lead, 30-12. Both tables played 3♠ by North, down two, in Russia-All Stars. The Russians were doubled, so Bulgaria led 38-20 now.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North
♠ 10832
♥ Q87
♦ 62
♣ 10862

West	East
♠ KQ96	♠ 75
♥ A	♥ J9532
♦ J1053	♦ AK94
♣ QJ95	♣ 74

South
♠ AJ4
♥ K1064
♦ Q87
♣ AK3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
		Pass	1NT

Pass

In our featured match (and also in Hinden-China Women) both tables played 1NT for +120 or +150. But in both the other matches East balanced over a strong notrump and went plus. Kang Meng balanced with 2♦ (DONT) and went +110 for 6 imps, but the real drama was reserved for Gladys, who showed hearts and another and was corrected into 3♦. When Kovachev thought he had enough to double, he was sadly disabused by the sight of that monstrous dummy. Minus 670 gave Russia 13 imps, and they trailed 33-38.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North
♠ K53
♥ AJ76
♦ 9
♣ KJ1096

West	East
♠ 64	♠ AQJ872
♥ 92	♥ KQ4
♦ Q1083	♦ AJ4
♣ A8753	♣ 4

South
♠ 109
♥ 10853
♦ K7652
♣ Q2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A low club lead would have beaten 3NT, but after Tanaka's selection of a diamond declarer could take two spade finesses using an entry in each minor, and rack up +430. That was just enough when Kenji lowered the boom on Gill again. This time his lead of

an unsupported ace did not work all that well. (The defenders might have managed +500 on any lead but a low heart). Kenji shifted to trumps and when Ayako switched to hearts they held declarer to four trumps and three plain winners. Even on two rounds of trumps declarer can eventually endplay East in spades to lead the red suits for him.

The All Stars also decided to defend a doubled club partscore but here it was Iliev passing out 1♣x and on an even less effective defense after a club lead Drijver came to +240. In the other room after North had opened 1♣ Gladys doubled and the opponents found their heart fit. Gladys now looked with favor on his heart cards and jumped to 3♠, raised to game for a painless +420 after the lead of the ♣Q. 43-38 to Russia now.

Beijing picked up 6 imps for bidding game against England/Denmark; both tables played partscores in Hinden-China Women 2.

Bd: 12      North  
 Dlr: West    ♠ J8  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ Q986  
                ♦ 7643  
                ♣ QJ9

West ♠ 10653 ♥ 72 ♦ KQ98 ♣ A108	East ♠ AQ72 ♥ J543 ♦ A ♣ K532
---	---

South  
 ♠ K94  
 ♥ AK10  
 ♦ J1052  
 ♣ 764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥(2)	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Relay  
 (2) Four spades and two or fewer hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
		1♦(♥)	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both tables declared 4♠ here. Reid won the top club lead to unblock diamonds and play hearts, and Naito took the first heart to shift to a trump; not a terrible idea but not necessarily best today. The defenders could play a second trump but declarer had two top

trumps, three plain winners, and three trumps separately one way or another.

Kenji received a top heart lead and a club shift to the eight, jack and king (nice play, Peter). He unblocked diamonds and played a second heart. Hans won to play a second club and declarer rejected the finesse to win the ♣A, cash diamonds pitching clubs, then ruff a diamond and ruff a heart to reach this ending with the lead in dummy:

North ♠ J8 ♥ Q ♦ --- ♣ Q	West ♠ 1065 ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ 10	East ♠ AQ7 ♥ 5 ♦ --- ♣ ---
South ♠ K94 ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ 4		

Declarer, who had lost two tricks, could have ruffed a club to lead a heart up and gone down only when North had started life with three hearts and the ♠J but not the ♠K. Instead Kenji finessed in spades. Hans took the queen with the king and resisted the knee-jerk reaction to return a club. Instead he played back his low spade to the six, jack and ace, and now could discard his heart when declarer ruffed his loser in dummy, leaving South with the master trump at trick 13. Down one; 10 elegant imps to Down Under, leading now 55-5.

At our other tables only the Russians bid and made game here; another 8 imps to lead 53-38.

The next two deals saw nothing but overtrick and undertrick imps change hands. Then:

Bd: 15 Dlr: South Vul: N/S	North ♠ Q84 ♥ Q1083 ♦ AJ2 ♣ J82	East ♠ AK1092 ♥ 65 ♦ Q97 ♣ Q64
West ♠ J7653 ♥ J9 ♦ 64 ♣ A1093	South ♠ --- ♥ AK742 ♦ K10853 ♣ K75	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Miya A</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Miya K</i>	<i>Hans</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♥	2♠	4♦
4♠	5♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Naito</i>
			1♥
Pass	3♦	3♠	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Tanaka pushed Reid to 5♠x. The defense accurately cashed two hearts, then played three rounds of

diamonds. Newell misguessed clubs completely by crossing to the ace and subsequently leading to the queen. This only cost 3 imps (instead of gaining 5 imps) when Hans safety played diamonds to ensure his contract by running the jack, and made +680 in the process. Those 3 imps made it 55-8 at the break.

Beijing escaped for down 300 in 4♠x while Isporski-Kovachev overreached to 6♥, where the percentage play in diamonds is doubtless to assume West has diamond length when East was the defender who bid spades first. That was what Kovachev thought and it cost him 12 imps instead of a gain of 13.

At the end of the first set Beijing Trinergy led by 1 imp, Hinden by 2 imps, Russia by 27 imps and Down Under by 47 imps.

## A Taste Of Sanya, A World of Bridge

Yesterday we were visited in the Secretariat by James Guan, a vice-secretary charged with organizing the World Bridge Series to be held in Sanya, China from October 10-25, 2014. (See the ad on page 25.)

As the snow fell heavily outside we asked if we could expect the same (snowy) conditions in Sanya. He laughed and told us that we could expect extremely temperate weather. Sanya's weather is good all year round, but perfect in October. As to a comparison, Sanya is known as the Hawaii of China (but without the macadamia nuts). While in winter many people come down from the North to escape the cold weather, there should be no problem with overcrowding in the autumn. Sanya is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in China there being six or seven different regional groups who make their home there.

Sanya is the southern-most city in Hainan Province, with a population of over half a million. Hainan was, until 25 years ago, part of the Chinese province of Guangzhou but is now a separate province. Sanya is one of three major cities on the island. There are excellent airport facilities; you can fly into almost any major city in China from any part of the world and connect easily to Sanya.

In addition to the bridge there are opportunities for all sorts of activities on the island, including diving, climbing, fishing and golf.

The tournament will take the same basic format as past World Open Championships, starting with the mixed events, then the team events, and finishing with the pair events. This year there will be both a Mixed Teams and a Mixed Pairs (for the first time in many years), though the events might revert to a format from the seventies.

This will be the biggest bridge event ever organized in Asia. The organizers are planning to host a field of between two and three thousand pairs. There will be two main hotels (the MGM Hotel and the Sheraton) with events shared between them. There are also a number of other excellent hotels, all within a ten-minute walk from the host hotels, and the weather conditions should make this a painless commute. The precise locations for specific events has not yet been determined.

As to hotel rates and entry fees, bridge costs will be independent of whether you stay in a WBF approved hotel. However, James told us that he expects the cheaper hotel rates to be more readily available to those who book early, so get those applications in soon and you will save money.

Oh, and for those voyeurs among you out there, there will be Vugraph in both English and Chinese.

# NEC Quarter-finals (2<sup>nd</sup> half): Beijing Trinergy vs England/Denmark

by Rich Colker



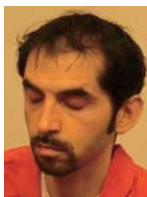
Hackett



Li



Wang



Bakhshi



Sun



Blakset



Larsen



Kang

Beijing Trinergy entered the second half of their quarter-final match against England/Denmark with a 1-imp lead. Buckle up, laddies and lassies.

On Board 17 both N/S pairs reached 4♠ via identical auctions (Pass-1♠-4♠), down one when there turned out to be two top losers in each red suit. It is unclear who could have predicted such a thing when the two hands contained a combined total of 20 hcp between them and the 4♠ bidder had a flat 5=3=3=2 shape. Nor could the E/W opponents make anything on the deal. All eight tables played 4♠ but only one of them (Peter Gill) bamboozled his opponents into pitching one of their winners.

Bd: 18  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ A9875  
 ♥ QJ54  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ AQJ7

West  
 ♠ K106  
 ♥ 9863  
 ♦ J62  
 ♣ 843

East  
 ♠ QJ42  
 ♥ 1072  
 ♦ A9853  
 ♣ 6

South  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ KQ1074  
 ♣ K10952

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	4♥

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The excellent 6♣ was reached at both tables and neither declarer had any trouble making 12 tricks. But where Blakset immediately drew three rounds of trumps and claimed 12 tricks early, Wang, who got a spade lead from Hackett, immediately played along dummy-reversal lines (ruffing spades in hand) and came away with an overtrick. 35-33 Beijing.

Again, only one table created a swing. This time it was Tanaka-Saito against Down Under missing the slam on a competitive auction. Down Under giveth and Down Under taketh away...but mainly taketh.

On Board 19 all eight tables made an unexciting 3NT, while on Board 20 both tables reached 3NT on unopposed auctions with their heart stopper ♥108 opposite ♥74. Surprisingly, while they played the contract from different sides both opponents had natural heart leads culminated in a pair -100s. Still 35-33. We could tell you how Frances Hinden made 3NT here but then we'd have to kill you — or her opponents would kill us. And we respect the sanctity of life, especially when it is our own that is involved.

On Board 21 both Easts played notrump partials on the ♦Q lead. Kang made 10 tricks while Bakhshi came away with 11 to cut the lead to 1 imp again at 35-34. Two tables, Gromov for Russia and Gan for China Women 2, bid to 3NT and found the cards cooperating very nicely. After five deals Down under was up 64, Hinden was up 5, and Russia was up 34.

Bd: 22  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AQ654  
 ♥ 93  
 ♦ K932  
 ♣ A3

West  
 ♠ J82  
 ♥ AK52  
 ♦ J104  
 ♣ Q107

East  
 ♠ 107  
 ♥ QJ76  
 ♦ AQ7  
 ♣ KJ96

South  
 ♠ K93  
 ♥ 1084  
 ♦ 865  
 ♣ 8542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		1♥	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
		1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room Hackett and Bakhshi, playing four-card majors, found their four-four heart fit immediately and when Hackett invited game Bakhshi declined with his flat 13-count. On a trump lead and with hearts breaking Bakhshi drew trump, knocked out the ♣A, and quickly came to ten tricks for +170. In the Closed Room the defense took the first five spade tricks against Kang's 3NT and eventually collected the ♣A for down two, -200. That was 9imps to England/Denmark, who took the lead at 43-35.

Only Osborne-Hinden bid 4♥ here, and brought it home to increase their lead to 15imps.

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ AQ106  
 ♦ AJ83  
 ♣ 10654

West  
 ♠ 8765432  
 ♥ KJ43  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ 2

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ 972  
 ♦ KQ542  
 ♣ AKQ98

South  
 ♠ KQJ109  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ 1097  
 ♣ J73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	1NT	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♣	2♠
All Pass			

Perhaps Paul Hackett in the Open Room thought his 3♥ bid showed spades, or perhaps he was throwing out a red herring planning to run to 3♠ when 3♥ was doubled. In any case when Bakhshi reasserted his affinity for the minors with a pass-or-correct 4♣ Li, with his three aces and four trumps, failed to take exception to that contract (why?). So Bakhshi was allowed to go down four quietly on the ♠K lead (he scored five trumps and a diamond) for -400. (By contrast, Andrey Gromov committed his side first to 3♦, then when doubled there he ran to 4♣, and -800 was the result for a loss of 14imps. The match margin was still 15 for Russia.)

In the Closed Room Larsen's spades *looked* like a six-bagger so he bid them as such. He won the opening ♦6 lead with the ace, cashed the ♠A while noting Kang's ♣9 discard, and got out with a low diamond. Kang won, cashed the ♣Q noting Sun's deuce (who knew it was his partner who had the singleton on the bidding?), and switched back to diamonds, cashing the queen and leading a fourth round when continuing clubs would have made a two-trick difference. Larsen pitched a club on the diamond, winning the jack in dummy when Sun also pitched (the ♥K), and claimed eight tricks for +110 instead of -200. That was 7imps to Beijing (when it might have been 12) to close the gap to 1 at 43-42.

Bd: 24  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ J9762  
 ♥ Q87  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ A963

West  
 ♠ AK8  
 ♥ 10532  
 ♦ QJ432  
 ♣ K

East  
 ♠ Q3  
 ♥ AK96  
 ♦ A10985  
 ♣ 105

South  
 ♠ 1054  
 ♥ J4  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ QJ8742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
1♦	1♠	2♠(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Diamond raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When Sun opened a slightly off-shape 1NT Kang had no trouble locating his side's four-four heart fit via Stayman and bouncing into game. Sun won the spade lead in dummy, cashed the ♥AK, led a club to the king and ace, follow to the third trump, ruffed the club return ("Take that, Lars!"), took the losing diamond finesse and claimed; +420.

Once Hackett opened 1♦ (playing four-card majors) it seems it became near to impossible for his side to find their four-four heart fit once East failed to start with a negative double. Papa signed off in 3♦ (Bakhshi might have just been inviting) and now Bakhshi's 3♥ bid showed heart values (or a stopper looking for 3NT) but not necessarily a four-card suit, so Papa duly bid to 3NT with his spade stoppers. Li could have been a hero had he found the ♣A lead (or even a spade). Instead he led the ♣3 and Papa scored his stiff king. Not to worry, the diamond finesse lost and now the defense collected five clubs and the diamond for down two, -100. That was 11 more imps to Beijing.

But wait. Actually, a failure to Alert Li's double caused a problem in the Open Room. The Director was called, made a ruling, and an appeal of that ruling was heard at the end of the match. It turned out that Li's double of 3♠ asked his partner *not* to lead a spade (i.e., showed bad spades or at least a stronger desire for another lead). This was properly Alerted by North to East but was not Alerted by South to West. Given this meaning of the double East's pass *denied* a club stopper according to E/W's methods. But Hackett didn't know that due to the failure to Alert, and bid 3NT believing the double was penalty and that his partner's pass was non-committal (did not show or deny anything specific). So the Director ruled that West would be allowed to bid 4♥ rather than 3NT since he should have been Alerted and thus known that his side did not have a club stopper. The Appeal Committee changed this ruling somewhat, assigning E/W a combination of several possible results, each weighted by a certain percentage. They judged that with a proper Alert E/W might have reached 4♥ making with about a 50%

likelihood; they might still have reached 3NT down two (the actual score at the table) with about a 40% likelihood; and they might have reached 5♦ down one with about a 10% likelihood. (Of course these are percentages are subjective.) Each of these were impeded against +420 for N/S in the other room and the resulting imps combined, which resulted in a 5.4 imp win (we'll just call it 5 imps) on the board for Beijing, who now led 47-43.

The Russian lead was down to 6 imps as a result of this deal, where Brink-Drijver saved in 5♣ down 800 for a loss of 9 imps.

Bd: 25	North	
Dlr: North	♠ AKJ109865	
Vul: E/W	♥ 3	
	♦ Q3	
	♣ A7	
West		East
♠ 743		♠ ---
♥ AK4		♥ QJ10975
♦ 975		♦ KJ10864
♣ KQ104		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ Q2	
	♥ 862	
	♦ A2	
	♣ J86532	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	1♠	3♣(1)	Pass
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dbl
All Pass			

(1) Next two higher suits

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
	4♦(1)	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	Dbl
6♥	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) South African Texas (♦=♠; ♣=♥)

Does anyone know "what the hell is going on out here?" If you agree with Li's 1♠ opening in the Open Room then this auction looks sort of okay up through Bakhshi's 6♥ bid, since both 5♠ and 6♥ are going down. Also, Wang's 5♠ bid looks a bit odd with an ace in one of Bakhshi's suits and facing whatever defense a one-level opening promises. Perhaps a double of 5♥ would have been something other than penalty or maybe a penalty double is too much (5♥ can be made if Bakhshi guesses the right play in diamonds, but it seems unlikely that he would have gotten it right given the opening bid on his right and

silence on his left).

Things were if anything even wilder in the Closed Room. Larsen accepted the transfer to 4♠ and Kang balanced with 4NT (two- or three-suited?). Sun liked her spade fragment opposite what rated to be shortness, and bet on slam being good opposite two or three suits including clubs. Unfortunately, Kang did not have clubs; only the red suits, so Sun took a heart preference and the double let him know that there might be problems. The play was similar in both rooms, declarer guessing to play opener for the ♠Q, and both players finished down one for a push.

The only tables where N/S scored a reasonable number was in Russia-All Stars. Brink-Drijver stole the pot in 4♠ for +420, but their teammates bid on to 6♦ and were doubled there for -500. The Russian lead was down to 4 imps. Meanwhile, Down Under looked safe at 48 imps, Hinden led by 14 imps.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ 7643  
 Vul: Both ♥ 642  
 ♦ AQJ65  
 ♣ 10

West  
 ♠ AJ  
 ♥ Q1095  
 ♦ 943  
 ♣ KJ65

East  
 ♠ 1085  
 ♥ AK73  
 ♦ K10  
 ♣ Q872

South  
 ♠ KQ92  
 ♥ J8  
 ♦ 872  
 ♣ A943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		1♥	Pass
3NT(1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Balanced four-card heart raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

E/W at both tables reached 4♥, the defeat of which depended on N/S finding their club ruff before they gave up the lead for declarer to draw trumps. In the Open Room Wang led a trump and Bakhshi soon was writing +620 in the plus column of his scorecard. In the Closed Room Blakset's 2♦ overcall allowed Larsen to find a diamond lead and when Blakset switched to his club at trick 2 Larsen won and delivered the ruff that defeated 4♥; -100. That was

12 imps to England/Denmark, who spurted back into the lead at 55-47.

Kenji Miyakuni also made game here but Drijver doubled 4♥ as South before leading the ♣10 and now Brink had no trouble giving his partner the ruff. The Russian lead was up to 13 imps. Hinden also took the ruff while his team played partscore in the other room; their lead was up to 20 imps.

On Board 27 England/Denmark picked up an overtrick imp in 4♠ when Li led a heart, allowing Hackett to shake a club loser. In the other room Larsen overcalled in clubs allowing his partner to get off to the club lead needed to cash their two tricks there. 56-47, England/Denmark. Meanwhile, China Women 2 pushed their opponents to 5♠, doubled them, and picked up 11 imps for their pains.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ 2  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ1073  
 ♦ K986  
 ♣ AJ9

West  
 ♠ 10743  
 ♥ 642  
 ♦ QJ4  
 ♣ K87

East  
 ♠ AK95  
 ♥ A5  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ Q65432

South  
 ♠ QJ86  
 ♥ Q98  
 ♦ A10753  
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	1♥	2♣	Dbl
3♣	3♦	3♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
Pass	1♥	3♣	3♦(♥)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

With the points split nearly evenly between the two sides on this deal no one could really be certain whose hand it was. But what Hackett was sure of when his partner bid again at the three level was that he had a double fit in the black suits. So when N/S reached 4♥ he knew he might make 4♠, or have a cheap save given the favorable colors, and it turned out even cheaper when no one doubled. Wang led the ♥Q against 4♠. Bakhshi won, cashed the ♠A, then led a club to the king and ace. Li continued with the ♣J and Wang ruffed out Bakhshi's queen (albeit with a natural trump trick), then led a heart back to Li



who continued with a third heart, tapping declarer. Bakhshi got out with a club and Li continued with the heart attack. Bakhshi pitched his diamond and ruffed in dummy when Wang also pitched. Then he crossed to the ♠K, played good clubs, and Wang could take his high trump whenever wished. Down two, -100.

In the Closed Room Sun, with his flat and modest holding, understandably did not raise Kang's clubs at the four level nor did Kang, with his poor clubs, venture a bid of 4♠. So E/W never discovered their double fit and thus sold out to the cold 4♥. Kang led the ♠A and continued with the king. Blakset ruffed and tabled the ♥K. Kang won the ace and shifted to his singleton diamond, but Blakset won the king in hand, drew trumps ending in his hand, and when Kang showed out on the second diamond Blakset passed it to Sun and claimed ten tricks; +620. That was 11 more imps to England/Denmark, ahead now by 20 at 67-47.

The Chinese Women virtually evened their match, when they saved in 4♠x for -500, while Osborne doubled 4♥ and found he could not beat it. The lead was 2 imps with four deals to go. Meanwhile, the All Stars trailed by 8 imps. The tide was also about to turn for Beijing Trinergy — and just in time.

Bd: 29 North  
 Dir: North ♠ Q1096  
 Vul: Both ♥ 1074  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ KQ1064

West	East
♠ AK843	♠ J2
♥ J86	♥ Q93
♦ J873	♦ KQ5
♣ 5	♣ AJ983

South  
 ♠ 75  
 ♥ AK52  
 ♦ A10964  
 ♣ 72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Li	Bakhshi	Wang
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun	Blakset	Kang	Larsen
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Different strokes for different folks. Opposite a "14-16" notrump Hackett thought his hand was worth a

game try. Well, if truth be told he did have some useful shape and a "miracle" fit might well have produced a game, but as someone once told us, "The meek may inherit the earth, but the smart money is on the other guys." In this case, pass and hope you go plus in 2♠. Wang led the ♦A, switched to the ♥K to show her re-entry, led the ♦10 for Li to ruff, got back in with the ♥A, and gave Li a second ruff. Bakhshi was down one before he ever gained the lead and claimed down one at trick seven; -100.

In the Closed Room Sun wisely settled in 2♠. He won the ♠K lead and called for the ♦K. Now Larsen could have beaten 2♠ by winning the ace, giving Blakset a diamond ruff, back in with a heart for another ruff, then in with a second heart to lead a fourth diamond for the uppercut. But he fell from grace and ducked the first diamond, won the second (Blakset pitching a heart), gave Blakset a ruff, won the heart return, cashed his second top heart and led a third heart for Blakset to ruff. Unfortunately that was only the defense's fifth trick and now Kang had +110. That was 5 imps back to Beijing, trailing 67-52.

Hinden added just a little breathing room when they defended 2♠ for -110 but collected +200 from 2♣ by the Chinese North. That made the margin 5 imps. Meanwhile, Bulgaria defeated 2♠ by Gromov but declared 3♦x by East after a Precision 1♦ from Hristov on the East cards. That got out for down one but the Russian lead was up to 11 now.

Bd: 30 North  
 Dir: East ♠ K107  
 Vul: None ♥ K  
 ♦ QJ942  
 ♣ KQJ5

West	East
♠ A643	♠ Q952
♥ 9876	♥ AQJ3
♦ A3	♦ K8
♣ 1072	♣ 863

South  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ 10542  
 ♦ 10765  
 ♣ A94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Li	Bakhshi	Wang
		1♥	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	All Pass
(1) NAT GF or 3+♥ INV			
(2) 11-13			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun	Blakset	Kang	Larsen
		1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Against Bakhshi's 2♥ in the Open Room Wang led the ♠J. Bakhshi won the ace, played a heart to the king and ace, tested a second round just in case, then exited with a club to Li's jack. The defenders cashed two more clubs before Wang got out with a spade to Li's king. But that was it for the defense except for their one trump trick and Bakhshi soon claimed +110.

The weak notrump was not conducive to Sun-Meng locating either of their four-four major-suit fits, but that was irrelevant here with 1NT being cold. Larsen might well have run from 1NTx to 2♦, but that would have pushed his opponents to two of a major (would N/S have reached 3♦ then and made it?). He got off to the best lead for his side of a diamond but Kang won in dummy, led a heart to the ace, cashed a second heart, played a spade to the ace and a spade back, covering the jack, then got out with a third spade and claimed eight tricks for +280. Another 5 imps to Beijing, closing in but still trailing 67-57.

Russia went plus in both rooms, making 2♦ and 1NT. Their lead was up to 16, while Hinden brought home 2♥ and 3♦ for 6 imps and finally had a double-figure lead again at 11 imps.

Board 31 was a push when 2♥ by Wang went one down in the Open Room while 1NT by Blakset in the Closed Room also failed by one trick. A push at -100. Hinden picked up yet another partscore swing to go up by 16. With one deal to go surely 16 imps was enough for them, and for Russia? Last dance, last chance.

Bd: 32                    North  
 Dir: West             ♠ J963  
 Vul: E/W              ♥ K86  
                               ♦ 965  
                               ♣ K65

West                    East  
 ♠ AK1084             ♠ Q2  
 ♥ 4                     ♥ A10  
 ♦ AQJ87              ♦ 10432  
 ♣ J10                 ♣ AQ874

South  
 ♠ 75  
 ♥ QJ97532  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ 932

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wang</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♦	3♥	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Bidding your second suit, having partner raise it after he already bid a two-over-one (even if it's not game forcing), and then settling quietly for game is the sort of thing they shave the hair off your chest for. With both minor suits behaving nicely, Hackett wasted no time in the Open Room in claiming 12 tricks; +680. Depressing.

Sun-Kang had a nice auction to reach the better 6♦ slam and when both minor-suit kings turned up in the same places they had occupied in the Open Room Sun was soon claiming 13 tricks for +1390. That was not too little, not too much, but just right. Beijing Trinergy had won the match 69-67 in what was from start to finish an exciting match. (Even the Appeal Committee enjoyed it.)

When the Bulgarians missed slam as well, Russia had won by a deceptively comfortable final margin of 29, while Hinden had 15 imps to spare. Down Under's margin was 65; they would take on Hinden next while Russia and China would revisit cold war battles yet again.



"You know your hair looks lovely today."

# NEC Semi-finals (1<sup>st</sup> half): England vs NEDUK

by Barry Rigal



Gladys



Lu



Wang



Kras'skii



Kang



Drijver



Brink



Sun

Bd: 1  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ AK10985  
♥ A5  
♦ 7  
♣ AJ93

West  
♠ Q  
♥ K10943  
♦ K9632  
♣ Q8

East  
♠ J742  
♥ QJ76  
♦ AQ104  
♣ 7

South  
♠ 63  
♥ 82  
♦ J85  
♣ K106542

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	Dbf	4♥	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠

Sometimes an auction takes you aback so much you rub your eyes and wonder what you could be missing. In the Open Room Wang passed 1♠ and when her partner doubled to show extras sold out to 4♥, which I guess makes sense if partner could be six-four with diamonds instead of clubs. That was normal enough, if extremely inferior (selling out to 4♥ when your side can make 6♣ isn't a great way to start any match). Of course one can beat 4♥ (top spade, diamond shift, win the first trump to underlead

in clubs; but *that* wasn't happening at this table).

In the other room Drijver took the slow route when his partner passed 2♣, but when he dragged spade support out of Brink he bid on to 4♠ while making a slam try en route. The four-one trump break did not bother him and Russia had a double-game swing and 13 imps.

Still, at least both pairs in our other match went plus with the N/S cards. Hinden-Osborne managed to reach 2♠ after an unopposed artificial auction where South responded 1NT, then showed a minimum hand with two spades; Gill-Hans had a strong club auction to play 4♠ (West having shown the red-suits and East staying silent throughout). 6 somewhat random imps to Down Under to start the match.

Bd: 2  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 962  
♥ KQJ764  
♦ Q6  
♣ J3

West	East
♠ AQJ103	♠ K874
♥ 5	♥ 1092
♦ 43	♦ KJ108
♣ A10974	♣ Q2

South  
♠ 5  
♥ A83  
♦ A9752  
♣ K865

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♠	2♣(♥)	3♦	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	5♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Declaring 4♠ Gladysch ruffed the second heart and chose to play ace and a low spade to the king. Then came the ♣Q, covered all around, and a second club up. Lu won his jack and led a low diamond to his partner for a third club to promote the ♠9 for down one. Somewhat careless by declarer maybe, but it is hard to see a safe route to ten tricks.

In the other room, where the stakes were higher, after Sun's strange decision to run from 5♥x, on a trump lead declarer would struggle to take more than nine tricks. But Drijver's quite reasonable decision to lead the ♦Q meant declarer was ahead in the game, and could get out for down one easily enough. Just 2 imps to Russia, up 15-0.

It was hard for Hinden-Osborne to compete when Hinden doubled 1♠ as North. Reid produced a cue-bid raise and Newell jumped to 4♠, ending the proceedings. Newell ruffed the second heart, played two top trumps from hand, then advanced the ♣9, covered by the jack, queen and king. Newell ruffed the heart continuation, cashed a club winner, led a diamond to the ten, and the defenders could manage no more than their ♦A. Plus 420 was a good score but did not have to be a winning position: Bell could overcall 2♠ over a Precision 1♦ as West to show spades and clubs. When Gill doubled, Hydes jumped to 4♠, Hans doubled to show short spades, and Gill bid 5♥. It was hard for either defender to double that, though maybe Bell might have taken a shot at it. Anyway, declarer was allowed to take two spade ruffs in dummy, but still had to lose three minor-suit tricks and the ♠A for down 200, but a gain of 6 imps. Down Under led 12-0.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AQ108		
Vul: E/W	♥ J8764		
	♦ 75		
	♣ Q3		
West		East	
♠ 9652		♠ 7	
♥ AQ532		♥ 9	
♦ 8		♦ AJ1043	
♣ 1087		♣ AKJ942	
	South		
	♠ KJ43		
	♥ K10		
	♦ KQ962		
	♣ 65		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladysch</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	3♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Both tables made ten tricks in clubs, Krasnoselski after a top diamond lead, when he could have taken 11 if he had needed to, Sun after the ♥K lead when he discarded a spade but was left with two diamonds and an overruff he could not avoid.

In the Hinden-Down Under match Reid as East also jumped to 3♣ after 1♦-Pass-1♥ to him. When that came back to Hinden she doubled and Osborne bid 3♦ rather than 3♠. That would not have been any fun at all, but Newell not unreasonably competed to 4♣. Osborne led a trump to dummy's ten and Hinden's queen, a play that in retrospect she might have regretted. Now declarer could crossruff in peace and quiet to 10 tricks. When Hydes lost his way in 4♣ after a spade lead and spade continuation (he played to ruff diamonds and when he was overruffed he rejected the heart finesse for his contract) Down Under had a third successive 6 imps to lead 18-0.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q75		
Vul: Both	♥ Q7		
	♦ J97643		
	♣ AQ		
	West		East
	♠ A2		♠ K1043
	♥ A92		♥ J86
	♦ 1052		♦ K8
	♣ 96432		♣ J1085
		South	
		♠ J986	
		♥ K10543	
		♦ AQ	
		♣ K7	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gladysch</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
			2♦(Majors)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both defenses led clubs. Brink won in dummy, led a diamond to the queen, cashed the ace, discovering that he must have led a virtuous life thus far, and his prayers were answered when the  $\diamond K$  fell. That was a painless nine tricks, which became ten when he could set up a second heart winner.

In the other room one must charitably assume a *fingerfehler* or slip of the hand when Lu as North won the club lead and led a diamond to the ace. Now he was a trick and a tempo behind and finished up two down in his game. Russia led 28-0.

Both pairs in our other match bid and made 3NT.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dlr: North  $\spadesuit$  105  
 Vul: N/S  $\heartsuit$  AK3  
 $\diamond$  A1053  
 $\clubsuit$  AQ98

West  
 $\spadesuit$  A43  
 $\heartsuit$  J542  
 $\diamond$  76  
 $\clubsuit$  KJ52

East  
 $\spadesuit$  KJ96  
 $\heartsuit$  Q10976  
 $\diamond$  942  
 $\clubsuit$  6

South  
 $\spadesuit$  Q872  
 $\heartsuit$  8  
 $\diamond$  KQJ8  
 $\clubsuit$  10743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	1NT	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass
2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1 $\clubsuit$	1 $\heartsuit$	Dbl
Rdbl	2NT	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables in our featured match tailored their play to their contract. Drijver, who had upgraded his hand into an 18-19 count, won the heart and crossed to dummy to lead a club to his eight; making ten tricks. Lu won the second heart and crossed to dummy to lead a club to his queen and made eight tricks. 11 more imps to Russia, leading 39-0.

Again, both tables played 3NT in our second semi-final, with Down Under leading 18-1.

Bd: 6 North  
 Dlr: East  $\spadesuit$  K3  
 Vul: E/W  $\heartsuit$  A9  
 $\diamond$  AJ972  
 $\clubsuit$  J1065

West  
 $\spadesuit$  A954  
 $\heartsuit$  63  
 $\diamond$  10543  
 $\clubsuit$  AQ3

East  
 $\spadesuit$  108762  
 $\heartsuit$  KQJ1052  
 $\diamond$  Q  
 $\clubsuit$  7

South  
 $\spadesuit$  QJ  
 $\heartsuit$  874  
 $\diamond$  K86  
 $\clubsuit$  K9842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 $\clubsuit$	1 $\diamond$	1 $\heartsuit$	2 $\diamond$
Pass	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		2 $\diamond$ (MAJs)	Pass
4 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	Pass	

Facing a weak major two-suiter Kang respected the vulnerability and decided to steal from the opposition. He must have been somewhat surprised when the club lead saw one diamond loser depart and the two-two trump break led to a neat +650 on his scorecard. Points, we don't need no stinkin' points! In the other room Krasnoselski had no convenient way into the bidding early, and his delayed invitational sequence may have suggested spades. But nothing was going to tempt West to accept any invitation. Beijing had 10 imps to trail 39-10.

In Hinden-Down Under Reid opened the East hand to show hearts, then jump raised to show shapely support (limited to 13) and Newell bid game. That was good for 11 imps when Gill-Hans "saved" in 3NT, running when doubled to 4 $\clubsuit$ . That was also doubled and set a trick, but Down Under led 29-1.

If the previous deal was painful for Russia this was equally so, though it could have been much worse.



"3 $\diamond$ ? You bid 3 $\diamond$  on *that*?"

Bd: 7 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 106  
 Vul: Both ♥ 10975  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ QJ109543

West  
 ♠ Q5  
 ♥ KJ863  
 ♦ K87543  
 ♣ ---

East  
 ♠ A9  
 ♥ Q4  
 ♦ AQ9  
 ♣ AK8762

South  
 ♠ KJ87432  
 ♥ A2  
 ♦ J1062  
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
2♥(♥+m)	Pass	2NT	3♠
4♦	Pass	6♦	DbI

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	4♠	DbI	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Against 5♦ Drijver led the ♠10. Declarer somewhat carelessly won the ace and advanced the ♣A, pitching a spade when South ruffed in. Overruffing to draw trumps ending in dummy would let him pitch his spade on the clubs and claim 11 tricks since neither opponent could have five hearts.

As it was, he ruffed the next spade, led a trump to dummy, and now the four-zero break confirmed he could not play on hearts and ruff the fourth heart high without promoting a trump for South. So long as North didn't pitched a heart on the run of the trumps there would be two hearts to lose at the end.

In the other room Gladys restrained himself from redoubling 6♦. He received the ♣K lead and it feels right to duck this. Instead he covered and South remembered to ruff high. Declarer overruffed, drew one trump to find the bad news, then played to ruff a heart in dummy and neutralize South's trump trick. 3 not unfortunate imps to Beijing, but it could have been much more. They trailed 13-39.

In Hinden-Down Under both Wests made a two-suited overcall over 1♠ and both Easts relayed. When South repeated his spades Newell competed to 4♦ and played 6♦, down on a spade lead, while Bell passed 3♠, and passed again when Hydes

doubled. The defenders led a diamond, ruffed, then declarer tried to cross to hand by ruffing a club. West overruffed and played back a trump, leaving declarer with two trump and four red-suit losers for down 500. That made it 29-13.

Bd: 8 North  
 Dir: West ♠ A97432  
 Vul: None ♥ Q7  
 ♦ J73  
 ♣ J10

West  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ 10862  
 ♦ KQ52  
 ♣ 85432

East  
 ♠ K85  
 ♥ 9543  
 ♦ 10964  
 ♣ A6

South  
 ♠ QJ106  
 ♥ AKJ  
 ♦ A8  
 ♣ KQ97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♠

All Pass

Quite a difference in valuation here. In the Open room North thought he had a minimum; in the Closed Room North showed a maximum. The leap to slam still looks like quite a flyer; it is difficult to construct a hand where slam is better than a finesse, and here, for example, on a diamond lead it has no play even with the spade finesse working. At both tables East led the ♣A (which seems rather dubious against the slam) but it was only a question of overtricks and undertricks; 23-39 to Russia.

One would not expect Newell and Reid to keep silent on any hand where bidding was a possibility. After 2♣-Pass-3♥ to Osborne (2♣ showing hearts and a minor) he bid 3NT and Hinden passed, which was quite a view. After a heart lead declarer wrapped up 10 tricks, good for a remarkable 10-imp gain when at the other table Hydes as East tried 1♠ in third seat. (That will teach Peter Gill not to open his six-card majors.) Now, when Hans doubled 1♠, Gill became declarer in 3NT and after a diamond lead the defenders could get to five tricks before declarer had nine. 24-29 now for Down Under.

Bd: 9  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

West	North	East	South
♠ 1093	♠ 54	♠ AKQ8	♠ J762
♥ K76	♥ A82	♥ J1054	♥ Q93
♦ 8762	♦ A10	♦ QJ954	♦ K3
♣ K86	♣ AQ10754	♣ ---	♣ J932

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass
3♦	2♣	2♠	3♣
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	1♣	Dbl	Pass
3♦	2♣	2♦	3♣
	All Pass		

Gladys's decision to pass 1♦ looks extreme, but the way the auction timed out worked perfectly for him. In both rooms 3♦ played just fine, Gladys finding his way to an overtrick for an imp.

The board seems unremarkable but they were clearly playing a different game in our other match. Gill opened a strong club, showed clubs, and tried to play 2♣, then 3♣, and finally took a shot at 3NT en route to 4♣. East, who had extracted a diamond suit from his partner, bid on to 4♦ and the defenders managed to go passive and set that contract by a trick. Not enough. Hinden opened a strong notrump, introduced her clubs when the opponents showed the majors, and then it was Osborne who offered 3NT en route to 4♣. No one had anything more to say and declarer had nine tricks without sweating when the club finesse worked.

Bd: 10  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: Both

West	North	East	South
♠ AQ54	♠ 1098	♠ 732	♠ KJ6
♥ Q742	♥ A10	♥ K965	♥ J83
♦ 82	♦ A10975	♦ 643	♦ KQJ
♣ QJ3	♣ 874	♣ K52	♣ A1096

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
All Pass		Pass	2♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	3♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦

The quirk in the different ranges of notrump (14-16 as opposed to 15-17) saw Lu bail out over Stayman in 2♦, collecting a comfortable +110, while 3NT on a top club lead saw Brink win and unblock diamonds, then pass the ♠10 with a 50-50 chance to either gain 10 imps or lose 7. Good odds, but the great Shuffler wasn't interested in the mathematics of the situation and capriciously awarded the imps to Beijing Trinergy; 40-30 now. There was no swing in our second match, both tables playing 3NT down a trick.

Russia added two overtrick imps to make it 42-30, then an overtrick imp went the other way in a 3NT contract. On this deal Newell-Reid stayed low, in a partscore, with a combined 26 HCP; 39-29, Hinden.

Another 2 imps went Beijing's way in overtricks, and the margin was 42-34 as we entered the last three deals of the set.

Bd: 14  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: None

West	North	East	South
♠ ---	♠ AJ43	♠ K10982	♠ Q765
♥ AK10	♥ Q8	♥ 764	♥ J9532
♦ QJ9853	♦ AK42	♦ 107	♦ 6
♣ AJ102	♣ Q76	♣ K94	♣ 853

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
1♦	1NT	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Dbl(Majors)
2♦	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

Both Souths must have decided that the boots they used to walk in the Yokohama snow would double as bidding boots — they certainly didn't hold back here. In the Open Room Wang knew his partner had spade length and diamond length, but I suppose he might have had a doubleton club and three hearts. Even so, the 3♥ bid seems completely over the top. Fortunately for her, nobody doubled and declarer emerged with one spade, two diamonds, and three trump tricks for -150. If that was depressing, imagine how Drijver felt when dummy came down in 4♠x, a contract that it was much easier to double for fairly obvious reasons. Declarer started brightly by taking two diamonds and a ruff, but the tricks dried up after that and all he could take was one more ruff and two natural trump tricks for down 800. Beijing Trinergy had the lead at 46-42, which they increased by an undertrick on the penultimate deal.

Newell-Reid showed the way to bid the E/W cards: 2♠-3NT. Maybe after leading a top diamond Hinden might have found a spade shift — easier said than done. She actually played a club and declarer emerged with ten tricks. That was worth 7 imps when Bell, as West (who had also heard his partner open 2♦ Multi), somewhat wimpishly did not double 3♥.

Bd: 16  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: E/W

<p>West</p> <p>♠ K532</p> <p>♥ 842</p> <p>♦ Q75</p> <p>♣ 532</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ 84</p> <p>♥ AQ1075</p> <p>♦ 6432</p> <p>♣ J9</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ AJ1076</p> <p>♥ J</p> <p>♦ 8</p> <p>♣ AKQ1076</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ Q9</p> <p>♥ K963</p> <p>♦ AKJ109</p> <p>♣ 84</p>
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Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kras'skii</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	3♦	4♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		1♣	1♦
Pass	2♥	3♦	4♥
4♠	5♦	Dbl	All Pass

5 well-earned imps by Russia for finding the decent save; only the irritating lie of the diamond honors prevented it being cheaper still. With 16 deals to go Beijing Trinergy led by a single imp.

Hinden added the same 5 imps, playing 5♥x down 500 after Osborne had come in over a strong club as South and bid again voluntarily to help his partner know he had a hand and not a foot. That made it 44-36 at the break.

(The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semis will appear tomorrow.)



"Crazy? You wanna see crazy?"



"And this little piggy went home."



"I can't believe I did that."



"But I had ONE spade, not TWO!"





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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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

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### The Past Comes Alive

[www.bridgedailybulletins.nl](http://www.bridgedailybulletins.nl)

Dutch players Frank van Wezel and Hans van de Konijnenberg both collect books, magazines and Daily Bulletins about bridge. They especially enjoy reading Daily Bulletins from the pre-internet era because these bulletins are a treasure trove of wonderful photographs, marvelous sketches, splendid deals, and tremendous stories and anecdotes.

Frank and Hans decided that this material should be at the disposal of all bridge players. At the same time, they want to save the history of bridge from oblivion. Therefore they launched the free website above. On this site you can find thousands of scanned bulletins, both from the digital era and before. They posted WBF, EBL and ACBL championship bulletins, as well as many from miscellaneous tournaments around the world.

And, if you happen to have bulletins that they are missing, please contact them. Contact details can be found on the website.

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### Registration For Weekend Events

Anyone planning to play in:

Yokohama IMP Pairs                      Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

Yokohama Swiss Teams                  Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

Asuka Cup                                      Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening