



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 16, 2014
Bulletin Number 7

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Shih Jue-Yu – Wang Ping Win Asuka Cup Two-Pair Tie in JCBL Cup



Asuka Cup: Winners



JCBL Cup: Winners (SM+KT)



JCBL Cup: Winners (SN+YN)

Top Finishers in the Asuka Cup and JCBL Cup

Rank	Asuka Cup		JCBL Cup	
	Pair	Score	Pair	Score
1	Shih Jue-Yu – Wang Ping	2316.24	1-2 Sanae Miyazaki–Keiko Tanino	27.5
2	Alex Hydes – Mike Bell	2304.86	1-2 Seichiro Noboru–Yoko Noboru	27.5
3	Gunnar Hallberg-William Whittaker	2292.99	Mamoru Minakuchi–Kazumi Saito	26.5
4	Katsumi Takahashi-LEE Bokhee	2280.83		
5	Kyoko Shimamura-Russell Samuel	2257.16		
6	Yuki Fukuyoshi – Takeshi Hanayama	2228.61		
7	Masayasu Oga – Takahiko Hirata	2205.72		
8	Ashley Bach – Liam Milne	2199.96		
9	Shunsuke Morimura – Hiroya Abe	2189.39		
10	Hisami Kataoka–Junzo Kobayashi	2187.92		

NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2014

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to thank our corporate sponsors, especially **NEC**, for once again joining with **JCBL** to produce a bridge event of the highest quality and competitiveness. The **NEC Bridge Festival** attracts the best players in the world, many of whom consider the NEC one of their best bridge experiences. Once again, congratulations to the sponsors and especially to the **JCBL** staff.

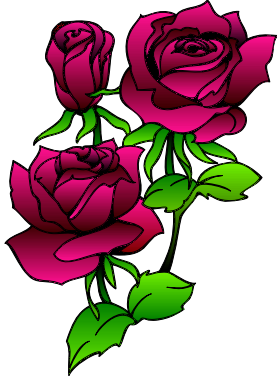
As always Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, are wonderful places for this event. Each year we marvel at the developments in the area, and this year is no exception. The Convention Center is a terrific playing venue. The weather this year, though not perfect, was probably a good deal better than what we would have experienced had we been back home in the northeastern U.S. As always, everyone has been warm and friendly and it is our continuing great pleasure to return each year to reunite with our many good friends to share the happy times and the fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts. As today is Valentine's Day we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone love and joy — not just for today, but for every day in the year.

The significant prizes and broad participation continue to make the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar, and one which continues to grow in prestige. This year's field of 46 teams in the NEC Cup included many top teams as well as many improving Japanese teams. The quality of bridge equaled that of years past and we take away a number of well-played and well-defended deals. We hope our role here has in some small way contributed to the tournament's and JCBL's continued success. And while the weather kept a number of teams from attending the weekend events, this year's festival was by any measure a success.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who provided us with deals, stories and other material to help us keep you informed. Many thanks to *Nakatani-san* for his leadership and friendship. Thanks also to *Richard Grenside*, tormented Director, who as ever ran a smooth and pleasant tournament; to *Sue Grenside* for her friendship and good humor (and for keeping Richard in check); to *Omasa-san*, for his awesome technical, computer, and directing support; to Makiko Tada, for the wonderful pictures she took (which as usual we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor); to *Nakamura-san*, for once again suffering with us into the wee morning hours (he continues to be the unluckiest person in Japan to have been assigned this task again this year) so that you may have daily bulletins fresh with your morning coffee, and especially for his work with the pictures and many other things too numerous to list here; to *Suzuki-san* and *Tashiro-san* for their hard work and help with many things, both technical and otherwise; to *Hayashi-san* for his work with BBO and to BBO itself; to *Koike-san* who helped to direct the events this weekend; and to the many who provided us with moral support during our long work sessions. Thanks also to the many volunteers who perform the myriad functions critical to making this tournament a success, while we remain oblivious to what is going on around us, absorbed in our work. As you know, we consider all of you part of our extended family here in Japan. And finally, many thanks to the players, who produced such exciting bridge.



Warmest regards, Rich, Barry, and the Bulletin Staff



A Very Special Thank You

To the treasured patrons of the 2014 NEC Bridge Festival

NEC Corporation
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NYK Cruises
Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel
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The Past Comes Alive

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.

Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

How sneaky of J M Shah to conceal his void. To set the slam Larsen had to play declarer for a club void (actually quite plausible on the adopted line of play and partner's carding) and exit in hearts.

Incidentally, after a trump lead to trick one, declarer can draw three rounds of trumps and run the ♠9. East must duck, and now declarer runs three more trumps, then cashes the ♠AK to reach the following position (West still to play):

	North	
	♠ J	
	♥ ---	
	♦ 8	
	♣ KJ	
West		East
♠ ---		♠ Q
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ KJ5		♦ 9
♣ Q9		♣ A10
	South	
	♠ ---	
	♥ 8	
	♦ AQ10	
	♣ ---	



Gopal Venkatesh

Whatever the defenders do, in the four-card ending West must come down to three diamonds (or declarer simply take a diamond finesse and claims regardless of whether it wins or loses) and thus only one club. Now declarer ruffs a club and plays a diamond (not the ace) to endplay West. Not obvious.

At the other table 4♥ made +650, giving India 13 imps — just enough to win the event.

A special word of thanks from the chocaholics

by Barry Rigal

We have been lucky enough (as a team of male chocolate-loving journalists) to be present every year over Valentine's Day. As a result we have been deluged with the finest chocolates for the past two decades, while never having been present over White Day when we would be only too happy to return the favor.

While this is obviously unfair to all the ladies who have been so generous to us my wife Sue has at least been able to take advantage of the situation. If we can find a way to rectify the position we will do so. The US Nationals this spring falls a little after White Day, but in the future (if the events coincide) we will try to offer chocolates to any Japanese Ladies we see at that tournament; we promise.

Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

06:40
07:40
08:40
11:40
12:40
14:10

From the YCAT
(100 min)
¥3,500

Every 15-20 minutes from
05:15 to 19:30

Asuka Cup

by Barry Rigal

With very little time to write up deals from the Asuka Cup, I sat down to kibitz two boards behind one of the pairs at the top of the list after the first session. On the two deals I saw, Mike Bell and Alex Hydes had the chance to shine in the bidding and the play.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Bd: 3
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 4
♥ Q874
♦ Q9854
♣ KQ8

West
♠ 1082
♥ AJ2
♦ ---
♣ A1095432

East
♠ AKQJ3
♥ K653
♦ A7
♣ J6

South
♠ 9765
♥ 109
♦ KJ10632
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Alex Hydes as West did not hold back at any of his first three turns to speak. The slam is easy enough to make, though on a heart lead declarer must not waste dummy's jack. N/S were Usui-Sonemoto and South led his singleton club. Bell took the ace and played a second club. He ruffed the diamond return to ruff a club high, then claimed when trumps were not 5-0. Bidding and making slam scored excellently, of course. The matchpoints on the second deal were up in the air till the very end.

Bd: 13
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ K62
♥ 10654
♦ Q10764
♣ 6

West
♠ 83
♥ AJ
♦ K83
♣ J107532

East
♠ Q9754
♥ KQ975
♦ J2
♣ A

South
♠ AJ10
♥ 82
♦ A95
♣ KQ984

Mike Bell went for the jugular when he doubled 2♣, then did not remove himself to 2♥ over Usui's well-judged rescue from 2♣x to 2♦. Hoping for the best, he led a top heart against 2♦x. Hydes overtook and cashed the ♥J, then returned a low club to the ace. Now came a third heart. Declarer ruffed with the nine — again well judged — and Hydes pitched a spade. Now declarer tried the ♦A, then the ♣K, pitching his last heart. Bell ruffed in and played a fourth heart in this position:

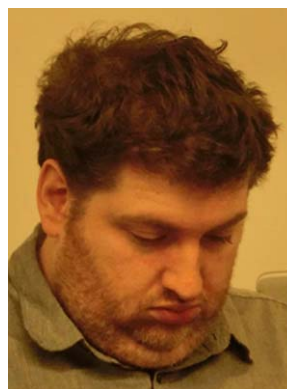
♠ K62
♥ ---
♦ Q1076
♣ ---

West
♠ 8
♥ ---
♦ K8
♣ J1075

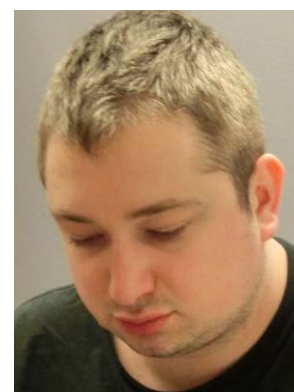
East
♠ Q9754
♥ Q9
♦ ---
♣ ---

South
♠ AJ10
♥ ---
♦ 5
♣ Q98

When the ♥Q was led, declarer should ruff in hand and lead a top trump, after which he has control. Instead, he ruffed in dummy and Hydes took the opportunity to discard another spade. Now when declarer elected to try to come back to hand with a spade Hydes could ruff in with his ♦8 and the ♦K was the setting trick; +200 instead of -180 swung the best part of a top.



Alex Hydes



Mike Bell