



NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 9, 2017
Bulletin Number 3

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Day Two of the 2017 NEC Cup

At the end of Day Two, the top qualifier is still team Israel (Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy) with 121.65 VPs, followed by team England/USA (Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Karen McCallum, Cenk Tuncok) with 115.78 VPs and team China Dalain Aoxin (Huo Shiyu, Chen Jun, Li Xiaoyi, Hu Linlin) with 105.18 VPs. Two other teams (China Relaxation and Soaring Shou) have VP totals over 100 accounting for the top five. Another group of ten teams with VP totals in the 90s are vying for those few qualifying spots remaining, while even the next group of teams with VPs in the high 80s (including some high-octane favorites) are not out of the picture. The complete Day One rankings are below; individual results for Matches 5-8 are on page 6.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Israel.....	121.65	19	Katsumata.....	86.42	37	OK team.....	71.35
2	England/USA.....	115.78	20	China Happy.....	85.74	38	Sakurai.....	71.04
3	China Dalian Aoxin. . .	105.18	21	Beijing Trinergy.....	85.26	39	Midori.....	69.95
4	China Relaxation.....	103.40	22	KinKi.....	85.17	40	KLS.....	69.81
5	Soaring Shou.....	103.24	23	Kosing.....	84.88	41	Rimi.....	69.66
6	Shanghai Financial. . .	99.92	24	Australia.....	81.57	42	River Side.....	69.3
7	Air-TRFC.....	98.49	25	POSEIDON.....	80.72	43	Morimura.....	66.17
8	Zhiyijia.....	97.66	26	MASA.....	80.18	44	Gladiator.....	65.61
9	SARA.....	97.08	27	Hackett.....	79.88	45	YOYO5.....	63.05
10	LAS FLORES.....	96.88	28	China Ladies.....	79.76	46	Japan Youth.....	63.02
11	Wuhan Dongfang BC.	95.94	29	Kimura@Yokohama. . .	78.84	47	HOSHI.....	62.49
12	YBT.....	92.65	30	TBA.....	77.8	48	Key Bridge.....	62.22
13	YBS.....	92.52	31	kaTsube.....	76	49	skylark.....	58.97
14	SWAT Squad.....	91.13	32	NANIWADA.....	74.59	50	Hanmaum.....	55.29
15	Senior 2017.....	90.83	33	Tropezienne.....	74.5	51	Joy.....	45.05
16	England/Norway.....	89.64	34	Fukuyoshi.....	74.03	52	Bridge View.....	44.72
17	China Open.....	88.78	35	HIRATA.....	73.76	53	Challenge.....	33.011
18	New Zealand.....	87.81	36	BACH.....	71.61			

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 21st NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/21st/tabid/1429/Default.aspx>

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

Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature Air-TRFC (50) vs Zhiyijia (28)
and England/Norway (7) vs New Zealand (5)

NEC Cup 2017: Conditions of Contest

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

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

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

Tie-Breaks: At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If the IMP quotients are the same the head-to-head match (if any) will be used. If there is still a tie a coin toss will be used. 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 greater total of IMPs (including fractional IMPs due to penalties or score adjustments) is the winner of the match. In the event of an exact tie the team with the higher position in the Swiss is the winner of the match.

KO-Phase Seating: The team with the higher position from the Swiss has the choice of seating in either of the two 16-board segments of the quarter-finals and semi-finals. If they do not declare their choice before the match starts they will be deemed to have used their rights in the first segment. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the team with the higher position from the Swiss can choose the seating in either the first and fourth segments or the second and third. If they do not declare their choice before the match starts they will be deemed to have chosen the former.

Swiss Pairings: First-round Swiss matches will be 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.

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. Appeals will be permitted until the start of the next session except that they will only be permitted for 30 min after the last session of the Swiss or the last session of a KO match.

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 should be made before the start of the next session, but they will be accepted after the start of the next session if still timely (i.e., until the draw for the KO for corrections to results in the Swiss, until the start of the next KO round for corrections to the Quarter-final or Semi-final results, or until the award of prize money for the KO final), and if there is no reasonable doubt.

KO Draw: The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 5th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 5th-8th group. The same process is repeated for the team finishing 3rd and the team finishing 4th will play against the team not chosen by any of the other three 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 offence, 3 VPs for all subsequent offences; KO: 3imps for the 1st offence, 10imps for all subsequent offences;

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.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices: Mobile phones and other electronic devices capable of receiving/ transmitting information to/from the playing area (e.g., personal computers, tablets, etc.) 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 and other electronic devices in the playing area are prohibited during game time. Players with mobile phones or other electronic devices should surrender their devices to the staff at the service desk and receive a numbered tag for collecting their mobile phones and other devices after the session. 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.

Official Language: English

Other: Any matter not covered here will be decided according to the JCBL Conditions of Contest. If not covered by the JCBL Conditions of Contest it will be decided according to the WBF Conditions of Contest. If not covered by either, the decision of the JCBL Tournament Operations Department will be final.

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: 21st NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Hackett:	Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes
2	SWAT Squad:	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland
3	England/USA:	Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Karen McCallum, Cenk Tuncok
4	Israel:	Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy
5	New Zealand:	Martin Reid, Peter Newell, Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach
6	Australia:	Siegfried Konig, Jimmi Wallis, Michael Whibley, Justin Howard
7	England/Norway:	David Bakhshi, Espen Erichsen, Terje Aa, Allan Livgard
8	China Open:	Chen Yunlong, Yang Lixin, Dai Jianming, Zhang Bangxiang, Zhao Jie, Li Jianwei
9	China Ladies:	Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Huang Yan, Wang Nan
10	Wuhan Dongfang Bridge Club:	Lian Ruoyang, Gui Shengyue, You Jianyong, Gao Fei, Yang Cai
11	Shanghai Financial Bridge Club:	Shan Baisong, Shen Yuxiong, Shao Zijian, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Hiroki Yokoi
12	Beijing Trinergy:	Lu Dong, Wang Yanhong, Sun Shaolin, Kang Meng, Xin Guofang, Li Rui
13	China Happy:	Xue Xiaoli, Wang Fei, Zhang Jun, Zhu Minrong, Zhao Yonghui, Liu Haitao
14	China Dalian Aoxin:	Huo Shiyu, Chen Jun, Li Xiaoyi, Hu Linlin
15	China Relaxation:	Zhao Hailong, Liu Xiaoping, Jin Ke, Zhu Ping, Sheng Ming, Fu Zhong
16	KOREA YOYO5:	Whayoung Kim, Youngmee Kim, Namyoon Kim, Ingu Hwang, Sungsook Kang
17	KOREA Gladiator:	Min Soenyoungh, Sohn Jackie, Lee Hansang, Ahn Jaiyong
18	KOREA Joy:	Choi An hee, Lee Eun ja, Chang Eun kyung, Hong Pil hae, Kim Sun young
19	KOREA OK:	Chung Ilsub, Sung Kunghae, Jang Jungbae, Choi Jungjin
20	KOREA KLS:	Kim Yoonkyung, Park Jungyoon, Park Mungkee, Hwang Inyung
21	KOREA Challenge:	Kim Younhee, Koh Inkyung, Kim Kyungmi, Yea Eunjoo
22	KOREA Bridge View:	Lee Myeongjin, Lee Sooik, Yang Sunjoo, Han Kwoon, Roh Seunjin
23	KOREA Hanmaum:	Lee Soony, Kwon sungwon, Han Okhee, Lee ChoonHee
24	Kosing (Korea/Singapore):	Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Kwon Haeryung, Yang Jiahong
25	YBT:	Yeh Chen, Zhang Yalan, Shih Jueiyu, Wang Ping, Ehud Friedlander, Inon Liran
26	YBS:	Patrick Huang, Jonky Chung, Chih Mou Lin, Bao Shan Kuang, Jen Lee Chi, Kuo Paw Cheng
27	Rimi:	Rimi Kawashima, Simon Chan, Jackson Lai, LH Chin
28	Zhiyijia:	Deng Zhuodi, Liu Jing, Liu Yinghao, Yin Jiashen, Hu Junjie, Chen Yichao
29	Soaring Shou:	Tian Wei, Li Zhenhe, Shi Bin, Dong Chunhui
30	POSEIDON:	Katsumi Takahashi, Hiroya Abe, Hidenori Narita, Lee Bokhee
31	BACH:	Yoko Okubo, Masaharu Takatori, Kimiyo Nakamoto, Reiko Hoshika, Peer Bach, Setsuko Lichtnecker
32	Key Bridge:	Cho Jung soon, Hong Jin hee, Oh Man jin, Miyako Nakadoi, Mitsuko Sugino, Sae Ohashi
33	Senior 2017:	Kazuhiko Yamada, Akihiko Yamada, Kyoko Ohno, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura
34	SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Hideki Takano, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka, Masaaki Takayama
35	TBA:	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Terumi Kubo, Hiroaki Miura
36	Katsumata:	Atsuko Katsumata, Kimiko Kamakari, Yasuyo Iida, Yoko Nenohi, Takako Nakatani, Yumi Yanagida
37	MASA:	Makiko Sato, Masayuki Hayasaka, Toshiko Kaho, Mariko Ueda
38	Fukuyoshi:	Yuki Fukuyoshi, Kyoko Sengoku, Daisuke Sugimoto, Megumi Takasaki, Hiroko Yanagisawa
39	Tropezienne:	Junko Takeda, Kazuko Kawashima, Masako Azuma, Keiko Ishihara
40	Kimura@Yokohama:	Osami Kimura, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Aiko Banno, Harue Iemori, Setsuko Kimura, Chisato Kiriya
41	kaTsube:	Kenji Miyakuni, Ayako Miyakuni, Toshihiro Katsube, Masako Katsube
42	NANIWADA:	Toshiro Nose, Masaru Naniwada, Hideo Togawa, Hisami Kataoka, Junzo Kobayashi
43	HIRATA:	Yasuhiro Shimizu, Makoto Hirata, Tadashi Yoshida, Takashi Maeda, Hiroyuki Noda
44	Morimura:	Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Keisuke Akama, Shunsuke Morimura, Masayuki Ohashi
45	LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Takanori Katayama, Sanekata Sonoike, Kotomi Asakoshi, Junko Nishimura, Yuki Harada
46	Sakurai:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Takehiko Tada, Kikuo Ito, Haruyoshi Sato
47	HOSHI:	Masako Sakurai, Yukiko Hoshi, Junko Tsubaki, Megumi Takasaka, Xi Yuheng
48	River Side:	Yumiko Kawakami, Masakatsu Sugino, Hiroko Tanaka, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Noriko Yagi, Toshiharu Hirose
49	Midori:	Midori Ito, Ayako Shimazaki, Kazuko Tachibana, Emi Sakata
50	Air-TRFC:	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Mark LaForge, Toby Curtis, Ayako Matsubara, Chen Yuechen
51	KinKi:	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Mamiko Odaira, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka, Kazuko Okamoto
52	Japan Youth:	Tadahiro Kikuchi, Koki Kobayashi, Hitoshi Tanabe, Eishi Imakiire, Ryoichi Yamada, Naoto Katagiri
53	skylark:	Naoto Matsumoto, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuo Takano, Kazuko Takahashi

**Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will be Air-TRFC (50) vs Zhiyijia (28)
and England/Norway (7) vs New Zealand (5)**

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 Yokohama Open Pairs 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 Yokohama Open Pairs) 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/Yokohama Open Pairs)

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

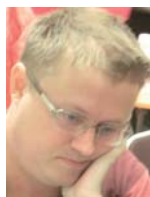
Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 5				Match 6				Match 7				Match 8			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	4	4	1.83	66.66	29	37	2.66	69.32	50	13	3.79	73.11	51	13	6.77	79.88
2	28	23	14.85	68.88	3	35	2.66	71.54	10	20	14.85	86.39	14	23	4.74	91.13
3	13	31	15.46	68.78	2	67	17.34	86.12	4	15	11.87	97.99	25	58	18.29	115.78
4	1	42	18.17	87.64	14	46	12.44	100.08	3	9	8.13	108.21	11	38	14.19	121.65
5	15	20	7.29	55.6	13	30	12.44	68.04	28	2	5.81	73.85	9	32	13.96	87.81
6	35	31	16.03	51.57	36	24	12.16	63.73	39	13	7.84	71.57	30	25	10	81.57
7	31	45	15.26	49.1	44	59	19.08	69.64	12	20	8.72	78.36	24	27	11.28	89.64
8	9	25	8.72	57.07	41	74	20	77.07	25	6	6.77	83.84	45	14	4.94	88.78
9	8	29	11.28	60.15	26	21	4.54	64.69	24	6	9.03	73.72	5	18	6.04	79.76
10	53	54	17.91	55.13	51	38	15.66	70.79	2	2	5.15	75.94	42	65	20	95.94
11	34	26	11.87	64.16	50	42	15.85	80.01	33	22	14.85	94.86	4	23	5.81	99.92
12	52	53	18.29	50.21	43	83	20	69.83	7	24	11.28	81.11	28	20	4.15	85.26
13	3	10	4.54	57.72	5	22	7.56	65.28	34	14	3.12	68.4	19	49	17.34	85.74
14	33	38	13.23	74.52	4	38	7.56	82.08	29	7	7.84	89.92	2	43	15.26	105.18
15	5	29	12.71	60.27	28	35	12.71	72.98	42	36	17.19	90.17	29	28	13.23	103.4
16	41	11	0.72	37.69	31	17	6.28	43.97	23	37	17.49	61.46	37	15	1.59	63.05
17	37	36	15.66	46.23	39	23	5.15	51.38	27	31	8.42	59.8	38	43	5.81	65.61
18	36	2	1.24	35.23	48	20	4.15	39.38	TW	8	5.58	44.96	20	10	0.09	45.05
19	38	37	17.04	38.84	53	40	14.19	53.03	48	34	15.66	68.69	13	17	2.66	71.35
20	32	47	15.66	36.33	47	24	9.03	45.36	35	3	4.54	49.9	18	65	19.91	69.81
21	TW	26	6.77	17	38	23	2.81	19.81	TW	20	10.97	30.78	TW	15	2.23	33.01
22	39	0	0	21.65	TW	2	0.01	21.66	TW	38	13.72	35.38	53	31	9.34	44.72
23	TW	22	7.03	25.43	TW	43	16.38	41.81	16	4	2.51	44.32	TW	24	10.97	55.29
24	30	36	10.33	61.22	33	23	3.97	65.19	9	9	10.97	76.16	7	23	8.72	84.88
25	29	7	6.28	58.71	30	61	20	78.71	8	17	13.23	91.94	3	19	1.71	92.65
26	51	29	12.44	59.5	9	42	15.46	74.96	45	11	11.28	86.24	50	15	6.28	92.52
27	45	12	3.97	41.22	35	30	11.28	52.5	17	36	11.58	64.08	40	26	5.58	69.66
28	2	5	5.15	60.33	15	26	7.29	67.62	5	17	14.19	81.81	12	43	15.85	97.66
29	25	20	13.72	66.97	1	69	17.34	84.31	14	14	12.16	96.47	15	17	6.77	103.24
30	24	35	9.67	58.56	25	2	0	58.56	36	15	12.16	70.72	6	25	10	80.72
31	7	25	4.74	38.07	16	30	13.72	50.33	46	4	7.56	57.89	52	23	13.72	71.61
32	20	25	4.34	21.8	TW	48	17.04	38.84	52	12	6.04	44.88	TW	43	17.34	62.22
33	14	27	6.77	62.88	24	47	16.03	78.91	11	4	5.15	84.06	34	32	6.77	90.83
34	11	20	8.13	59.41	42	31	7.56	66.97	13	43	16.88	83.85	33	43	13.23	97.08
35	6	7	3.97	39.9	27	26	8.72	48.62	20	24	15.46	64.08	49	38	13.72	77.8
36	18	45	18.76	53.7	6	17	7.84	61.54	30	8	7.84	69.38	39	52	17.04	86.42
37	17	14	4.34	34.39	52	14	10.66	45.05	53	31	16.72	61.77	16	55	18.41	80.18
38	19	7	2.96	32.65	21	54	17.19	49.84	44	15	10	59.84	17	58	14.19	74.03
39	22	70	20	44.53	17	41	14.85	59.38	6	20	12.16	71.54	36	22	2.96	74.5
40	42	23	7.03	53.8	45	18	0.62	54.42	49	14	10	64.42	27	42	14.42	78.84
41	16	59	19.28	55.27	8	6	0	55.27	51	9	6.77	62.04	44	56	13.96	76
42	40	33	12.97	59.34	34	39	12.44	71.78	15	5	2.81	74.59	10	7	0	74.59
43	44	24	9.34	49.21	12	7	0	49.21	47	10	12.97	62.18	46	38	11.58	73.76
44	43	26	10.66	49.21	7	13	0.92	50.13	38	15	10	60.13	41	42	6.04	66.17
45	27	36	16.03	53.72	40	67	19.38	73.1	26	7	8.72	81.82	8	33	15.06	96.88
46	50	14	1.13	42.05	49	39	8.13	50.18	31	12	12.44	62.62	43	33	8.42	71.04
47	49	21	8.13	37.97	20	27	10.97	48.94	43	0	7.03	55.97	48	28	6.52	62.49
48	TW	31	15.46	35.63	18	43	15.85	51.48	19	12	4.34	55.82	47	40	13.48	69.3
49	47	27	11.87	41.8	46	45	11.87	53.67	40	14	10	63.67	35	25	6.28	69.95
50	46	58	18.87	64.41	11	19	4.15	68.56	1	38	16.21	84.77	26	28	13.72	98.49
51	26	21	7.56	54.37	10	16	4.34	58.71	41	20	13.23	71.94	1	24	13.23	85.17
52	12	14	1.71	33.06	37	12	9.34	42.78	32	26	13.96	56.74	31	10	6.28	63.02
53	10	18	2.09	39.22	19	25	5.81	45.03	37	3	3.28	48.31	22	33	10.66	58.97

C-VP=Cumulative VPs; TW=Three-Way

Match Five: Zhiyijia vs SWAT Squad

by Barry Rigal



Nunn



Zhuodi



Jiashen



Hans



Hu



Auken



Welland



Chen

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 97
♥ Q984
♦ KJ97
♣ QJ2

West
♠ AJ10642
♥ J
♦ Q862
♣ 74

East
♠ 85
♥ A76
♦ A
♣ AK109653

South
♠ KQ3
♥ K10532
♦ 10543
♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Zhuodi	Hans	Jiashen
	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hu	Auken	Chen	Welland
	Pass	1♣(16+)	2♥
2♠	3♥	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both tables bid to 4♠, but Zhuodi led a heart, Auken a killing trump (always the best way to get a ruff on defense). In the Open Room Nunn won the ♥A and played a trump. Jiashen split his honors and won the next trump to return a diamond. Declarer ruffed a heart to hand to draw the last trump...now what? Nunn led a club to the ace and when the suit did not break he was down one. While he could have done better it isn't clear he actually did anything wrong.

Auken's trump lead looks less effective, doesn't it? Welland followed with the queen and won the next trump to return a diamond, of course. Stuck in dummy declarer sensibly chose to play the top clubs,

expecting that if the suit didn't break he might get lucky and find the same hand short in both suits. Not tonight, Josephine. Welland ruffed in and played diamonds for two down.

Our (single-)dummy Editor did better. When given the hand as a problem he cashed dummy's three aces then embarked on a cross-ruff to score the first seven tricks. When he tried to cash the second club South could ruff in and play a diamond to his partner's king. The defenders' only chance now is a trump promotion. North leads a club, and South ruffs high. West overruffs, and can obviously make if he leads a low trump back to South's bare honor. But even if he misguesses and plays the ♠J to South, that player has only hearts left in the two-card ending. When he leads one, declarer ruffs low and North must follow, so declarer can draw trumps at trick 13 with the ten.

About half the field followed this line to come through with +420, but pride of place goes to Masako Azuma and Keiko Ishihara of Tropezienne, who bid and made 6♣ here on a heart lead. Very nice, too.

SWAT led 2-0 and increased their lead on the next deal in somewhat paradoxical fashion.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ KQ1032
♥ Q95
♦ 32
♣ K94

West
♠ J7
♥ 8
♦ AKQ98765
♣ 76

East
♠ 964
♥ KJ742
♦ J4
♣ AJ2

South
♠ A85
♥ A1063
♦ 10
♣ Q10853

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Zhuodi</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jiashen</i>
		1♣(2+)	Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♣(♠)
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		Pass	1♣(2+)
5♦	All Pass		

You'd expect if East opened the bidding that it would be at that table where E/W reached game, wouldn't you? Whether or not 4♦ ought to be forcing (we vote "aye") Hans and Nunn's agreement is if they come up empty on a stopper search, four-of-a-minor is game. So Hans let Nunn play 4♦ and discovered that even the four-level was too high, at least in theory. The defenders led two rounds of spades and now South could not bring himself to play a club (though in reality that must be the right defense, mustn't it?). When he played a trump Nunn won and guessed hearts to shake his slow club loser.

Against 5♦ Auken (who must have been close to doubling) led a top spade, got a count card from Welland, and shifted to clubs, knowing Welland must have the queen to get close (if not *that* close) to an opening bid. Two down meant 6 imps to SWAT, leading 8-0.

In our other featured match Alex Hydes opened 4♦ as West and Zack balanced with a double, letting Barel play 4♠ on the ♦J lead. Hydes overtook to play a heart. Barel won, crossed to hand with a spade to ruff his diamond, cashed the ♠A, played a second heart, and all the defenders could take was their club winner. Even if Hydes plays a second diamond it isn't clear the defenders can do any better.

Only two other pairs were allowed to play 4♠ and make it: Wang-Xin of Bheijing Trinerger (while their teammates were recording +510 in 4♦x) and Jungbae-Jungjin of OK team.



"Yoo-hoo, Director. May I consult a guest expert?"

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ KJ53
Vul: E/W	♥ 10432
	♦ K98
	♣ 98
West	
♠ AQ	
♥ QJ7	
♦ J10763	
♣ Q75	
East	
♠ 9742	
♥ A86	
♦ A5	
♣ K432	
South	
♠ 1086	
♥ K95	
♦ Q42	
♣ AJ106	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Zhuodi</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jiashen</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Welland</i>
			1♣(2+)
1♦	Dbl(♥)	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

As combined 25-counts go, this pair of hands (which include a chunky five-card suit begging to be set up) produces one of the less appetizing combinations we've seen in a while, especially given the lie of the opponents' cards. Nunn received a heart lead and continuation (yes South might well have shifted to spades). He won in hand, led ace and another diamond, ducked to North, won the next heart in dummy perforce and led a club to the queen for a third diamond. North won, cashed his heart and led a club through for down one when South cashed out.

That may not look to be such a great result for E/W, but at least they stopped low and avoided the worst of it. In the other room E/W had a chance to do even better (and maybe if East had simply bid 1NT over the double he might have played there). Obviously Hu expected more for East's sequence and West's 3NT bid looks extreme—but maybe he was planning to run diamonds.

Against 3NT, Welland's ♠8 lead went to the queen and king. Auken (again knowing Welland's opening bid was limited to around 10 HCP) shifted to the ♣9 to dummy's queen. Now declarer played two rounds of diamonds. Auken won her king and pressed on with clubs, letting Welland win cheaply and play a second spade. Declarer could win in dummy and

play a third diamond to Welland, who cashed his ♣A and played a third spade. Auken overtook the ten and exited with a heart. Declarer had a spade and a club winner now but had to concede a trick to the ♥K for down three.

On the next deal Sartaj Hans heard his partner open 2♣ (17-19 balanced).

♠ 864
♥ 10962
♦ 52
♣ KJ73

His decision to pass got him to the par contract (they also played a club partscore in the other room). It was still 13-0, SWAT.

Bd: 5 North
Dir: North ♠ 852
Vul: N/S ♥ KQJ62
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AQ54

West
♠ 107
♥ A87
♦ KQJ43
♣ J83

East
♠ 43
♥ 105
♦ A9762
♣ K1097

South
♠ AKQJ96
♥ 942
♦ 108
♣ 62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Zhuodi</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jiashen</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	Pass	4♣(fit)	4♣
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			
(1) relay			

Hu's failure to overcall 2♦ over the relay shut his side out. When Auken made a shape-showing response Welland ended the auction. After a trump lead, Auken ducked a diamond and had 11 tricks when the defense did not play a club through.

That meant the 5♦ sacrifice was sure to pay dividends but Zhuodi found a shrewd defense by leading ace and another club. Unprepared to finesse and pay off to the ruffs, Nunn rose with the ♣K and

conceded 500, still a 4 imp gain, to lead 17-0.

Bd: 6 North
Dir: East ♠ K8
Vul: E/W ♥ J5
 ♦ Q32
 ♣ AQJ862

West
♠ A432
♥ A943
♦ K975
♣ 10

East
♠ 1065
♥ KQ82
♦ AJ10
♣ 953

South
♠ QJ97
♥ 1076
♦ 864
♣ K74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Zhuodi</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jiashen</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	2♣	Dbl	3♣
Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	3♣	Dbl	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both tables reached the decidedly pushy game here. But if you find the ♦Q you should be in good shape. Welland led the ♣K and shifted to the ♠Q. Declarer won as Auken did not unblock, and now if he plays for the spades to be blocked he can even survive a misguess in diamonds: diamond to hand, ruff a club, trump to hand, ruff another club, cash the ♥A, come to the ♦A to draw trumps and run diamonds for 11 tricks. Instead, declarer drew trumps and mis-guessed diamonds for down one.

The line of play followed in the other room after a top spade lead ducked and a second spade to dummy's ace duplicated this result. No swing; SWAT, 17-0.

The datum here was E/W +210, with a handful of pairs making 4♥, the unluckiest of whom were Shao-Shen for Shanghai Financial. Their +620 was worth a loss of 9imps when an enterprising strong notrump action with the North cards in the other room led to 1NTxx, -1000. We won't name the guilty party, but we will tell you that Niekawa-Tanaka were the beneficiaries.

There was also no swing on the next deal when both E/W pairs reached 3♠ down one (it needed the trump finesse plus some mildly favorable lie in one of the minors) but it was notable only because Zhuodi was

prepared to double 1♠, vulnerable and facing a passed partner, with: ♠ K4 ♥ AK76 ♦ J3 ♣ 109652. There's aggressive and then there's AGGRESSIVE.

Speaking of which...

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠ A1085
 Vul: None ♥ 42
 ♦ 86
 ♣ AQ764

West
 ♠ 94
 ♥ AKJ96
 ♦ Q973
 ♣ 52

East
 ♠ Q762
 ♥ 10873
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ 109

South
 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ 10542
 ♣ KJ83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Zhuodi</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jiashen</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

The West hand would certainly be opened by many whose system allowed it. But if that doesn't happen, a pass out is not so unlikely in the abstract, is it? Not with this cast of characters. Both Wests had no compunction in coming back in. Welland had an accurate way to show his hand type, but it wasn't enough to win the auction when Chen re-competed to 3♥. Nicely done all around; an eventual overtrick imp to SWAT made it 18-0.

How many pairs would you reckon bid and made 4♥ here as opposed to passing it out? The count was 16 passouts, and six pairs successful in 4♥. Only three defenders managed to cash out by leading a black ace as North.

On the next deal both pairs stayed out of a thin 3NT with 14 facing 10. 1NT was quite high enough and that was where Auken-Welland played, while their counterparts played 2NT. That is one advantage of light openers I suppose: a ten-count opposite never looks for game, not being sure if their side even has the balance of high cards.

After what appeared to be a routine vulnerable game

we were back to the SWAT team nickel and diming Zhiyang out of overtricks and undertricks.

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 3
 Vul: None ♥ Q987542
 ♦ 6432
 ♣ 10

West
 ♠ 10985
 ♥ A10
 ♦ J1075
 ♣ QJ7

East
 ♠ AKJ42
 ♥ K63
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ 854

South
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ J
 ♦ AK8
 ♣ AK9632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Zhuodi</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jiashen</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	1♣
2♠	3♥	Pass	2♣
All Pass			3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass	1♣(2+)
All Pass			4♥

Auken showed hearts, weak or game-forcing, and Welland drove to 4♥. The defenders cashed a spade and shifted to the ♦Q. Auken pitched a diamond on the clubs, then played trumps from the top to squash the ten and escape for down one. Not a great result, but not a tragedy. In the other room Jiashen's 3NT looks optimistic but no one could double. After the ♠10 ducked to South, all declarer could do was duck a club and the defenders cashed the next six tricks after that. Cheap at the price for 3imps for non-vulnerable undertricks. It was 21-0 now.

Just for the record, a depressing number of E/W pairs let through 4♥ here. After a top spade lead the diamond shift to kill the club suit might well be necessary.

On the next deal Hans found a thoughtful line for an overtrick in a major-suit game to make it 22-0. It was about time Zhiyijia got on the scoreboard.

Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q1063
 Vul: Both ♥ 106
 ♦ K652
 ♣ AKJ

West
 ♠ J9
 ♥ QJ94
 ♦ Q97
 ♣ Q874

East
 ♠ AK75
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AJ108
 ♣ 1062

South
 ♠ 842
 ♥ AK732
 ♦ 43
 ♣ 953

Closed Room
 West North East South
Hu Auken Chen Welland
 1♣(2+) Pass 1♦(♥)
 Pass 1♥ Dbl Pass
 1NT All Pass

The cards lie extremely well for declarer in 1NT. After an initial diamond lead declarer ran four diamonds, pitching a heart from hand, and set up a heart winner to make +90. Equally, 1♠ was going to encounter the same unfavorable lie of the cards, but this was hard for the defenders to exploit. Hans led a low trump and declarer led a heart to dummy to play a diamond to the nine, king and ace. Now the winning move was to play back a heart. East can eventually win the ♦Q to play the ♠9 through and declarer can manage only six tricks. Hans cleared trumps and now declarer had a second spade winner, plus three clubs tricks in the fulness of time. That made it 22-5, with an overtrick imp on Board 14 making the final score 23-5.

Open Room
 West North East South
Nunn Zhuodi Hans Jiashen
 1♦ Pass 1♥
 Pass 1♠ All Pass

Images of Our Game



LAST Court of Appeal



"Go ahead, make our day!"



"You played that so well!
 Can I have your autograph?"



"And then he passed me in Gerber!"



"Look, we're almost out of last place."



"May I please be excused?"



Before



During



After



Censored

On Further Review

by Barry Rigal

Cenk Tuncok was responsible for passing the bulletin some analysis on this deal from yesterday.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 98
 Vul: E/W ♥ 964
 ♦ A972
 ♣ AJ42

West
 ♠ Q1075
 ♥ KQ1073
 ♦ Q86
 ♣ 6

South has opened a strong club and shown a balanced minimum with a heart guard. When you lead the ♥K (count or unblock) partner contributes the two and declarer the jack. (1) Plan the defense. (2) For special credit: what if you play upside down count and attitude?

In part one I do not see how you can do anything but continue hearts, and that would be fatal: declarer has the doubleton ♠A and no hope for an eighth trick unless you continue hearts (he has ♥AJ85 and can build the ♥8 into a trick if he takes you in).

Should you work this out if partner's ♥2 is not consistent with three small? I think you should and especially from now on if declarer is Cenk Tuncok! This was the full deal:

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 98
 Vul: E/W ♥ 964
 ♦ A972
 ♣ AJ42

West
 ♠ Q1075
 ♥ KQ1073
 ♦ Q86
 ♣ 6

East
 ♠ KJ642
 ♥ 2
 ♦ K1054
 ♣ 875

South
 ♠ A3
 ♥ AJ85
 ♦ J3
 ♣ KQ1093

Yesterday I sold Sartaj Hans short in his line of play in 6♦ on this next deal.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q43
 Vul: Both ♥ 6
 ♦ KQ8632
 ♣ J108

West
 ♠ A965
 ♥ 842
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AK975

East
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ AQJ5
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ Q632

South
 ♠ 10872
 ♥ K10973
 ♦ 1075
 ♣ 4

Hans had the opportunity for a second nice play. He declared 6♣ as West on the auction: 1♣-(1♦)-1♥; 2♥-2NT; 3♠-4♣; 4♦-4NT; 5♥-6♣; Pass. 2NT was a relay, 3♠ showed the 4-3-1-5 shape and Nunn could set clubs and ask for keycards.

After a top diamond lead Hans drew trumps at once and took the heart finesse. When it lost and a heart came back, the key issue was whether to play North or South for four spades; in a sense the location of the queen was irrelevant to his play.

If North had four spades declarer could simply cash the remaining heart winner and ruff a heart to reach this ending:

North
 ♠ Q432
 ♥ ---
 ♦ K8
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ A965
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 9

East
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ ---
 ♦ J9
 ♣ 6

South
 ♠ 1087
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 10
 ♣ ---

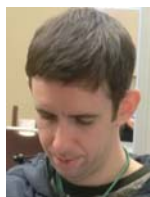
North has to find a discard and is caught in a ruffing squeeze. If the cards lay as they actually did declarer could win the second heart, play three rounds of spades ruffing in hand, ruff a diamond, and then lead the last trump from dummy to catch South in a simple major-suit squeeze, which was what he did.

Match Six: Air-TRFC vs Shanghai Financial

by Rich Colker



Yokoi



Curtis



Chen Y



Furuta



Fukuyama



Shen



Chen D



Sumita

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ KJ1032
♥ 92
♦ 8543
♣ KQ

West
♠ AQ74
♥ Q76
♦ Q2
♣ J762

East
♠ 965
♥ 10543
♦ KJ
♣ 9543

South
♠ 8
♥ AKJ8
♦ A10976
♣ A108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) Precision

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room Curtis-Chen's straightforward Precision auction led to a good 3NT contract (5♦ depends on 2-2 trumps). Yokoi's club lead was won by dummy's queen and Chen played ace and another diamond to Furuta's king, establishing the three additional tricks he needed for game (to go with his three clubs and two top hearts). Furuta switched to a heart to the jack and queen, and Yokoi cashed the ♠A. Declarer now had the rest; +430.

In the Closed Room Shen-Chen had an auction whose meaning is somewhat obscure, but our guess would be that 2♠ showed a sub-minimum opener with spades and another suit, 2NT asked, 3♦ showed the second suit and 5♦ was a shot (North's club honors might have been in his diamond suit and the spades might have been headed by the ace rather than the king-jack). Shen won the heart lead, played ace and another diamond, and claimed +400; 1 imp to Air-TRFC, 1-0.

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AQJ854
♥ 973
♦ Q1076
♣ ---

West
♠ ---
♥ Q862
♦ AK985
♣ Q1082

East
♠ K3
♥ AK105
♦ ---
♣ AKJ9643

South
♠ 109762
♥ J4
♦ J432
♣ 75

Both tables bid briskly to 6♣ here and had no trouble taking all the tricks for a push at +940. An opportunity lost? Yes, but at many other tables E/W managed to play inferior spots (no partscores but 6♦ was attempted on a 5-0 fit and there were plenty of game contracts around). The datum was E/W +1080.

I really hate it when the voices in my head go silent...I never know what they are planning.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ J102
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q76
 ♦ K96
 ♣ J962

West
 ♠ Q975
 ♥ 10983
 ♦ Q82
 ♣ K3

East
 ♠ A43
 ♥ KJ52
 ♦ 54
 ♣ 10874

South
 ♠ K86
 ♥ A4
 ♦ AJ1073
 ♣ AQ5

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q10
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ87
 ♦ K1075
 ♣ K32

West
 ♠ 872
 ♥ A43
 ♦ AQ864
 ♣ Q8

East
 ♠ AKJ9654
 ♥ J106
 ♦ 93
 ♣ J

South
 ♠ 3
 ♥ 952
 ♦ J2
 ♣ A1097654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♦
			3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♦
			3NT

All Pass

Both declarers received a heart lead against 3NT, Shen from the North side and Chen from the South. Shen ran the heart around to his queen, led a club to the queen and king, won the heart return in dummy, and led and passed the ♦J to cement nine tricks; +400. Chen ducked the ♥10, won the ace, and also led and passed the ♦J, but that only guaranteed him seven tricks. He led a second diamond to the nine, took the losing club finesse, and now the defense cashed their hearts and eventually endplayed dummy for down two, -100; 11 imps to Shanghai Financial to lead 11-1.

3NT was generally defeated on a heart lead, even when North was declarer. Most players misguessed diamonds since the entry position seemed to make it an even-money guess for the queen. But leading to the king picks up the singleton queen in both hands while running the jack loses to the bare ♦Q in East.



This was every man's 4♠ but today neither red suit was friendly. The VuGraph records are partially inaccurate here—they have both Air-TRFC and Shanghai Financial failing by one trick for a push at -100—when in reality Shanghai Financial scored up +620 for a 12-imp pickup, leading now 23-1.

After Dawei Chen's (South) heart lead to the queen for a club shift, to allow a second heart play, declarer has no good reason to make his game. But after the ♣A lead and a heart shift declarer should and did prevail by establishing diamonds. He can ruff the second club, draw trump then play a diamond to the queen. When North wins and exits in diamonds declarer can ruff a diamond back to hand and still has two entries to ruff out and cash the diamond to pitch his heart loser.

Approximately a quarter of the field set the game when East was declarer by leading hearts. Fans of four-card suit overcalls no doubt would have helped their partner do the right thing.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q1075
 Vul: N/S ♥ 65
 ♦ AK105
 ♣ AQ6

West
 ♠ A98
 ♥ KQJ10974
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 84

East
 ♠ 43
 ♥ 32
 ♦ J9764
 ♣ K972

South
 ♠ KJ62
 ♥ A8
 ♦ 832
 ♣ J1053

Both Norths opened 1NT, both West's preempted with 3♥ over South's 2♣ Stayman, and both tables ended up declaring 4♠ from the North side. Both declarers received a heart lead with an inescapable

loser in each suit so both declarers finished down one (-100) for yet another push. Still 23-1.

Bd: 22 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AJ1073
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q

♦ Q108
 ♣ K1032

West
 ♠ K982
 ♥ AJ10
 ♦ A4
 ♣ AJ64

East
 ♠ Q5
 ♥ 976532
 ♦ 753
 ♣ Q8

South
 ♠ 64
 ♥ K84
 ♦ KJ962
 ♣ 975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
1NT	2♠	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
1NT	2♠	2NT(R)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	All Pass

In the Open Room the defense to 2♠ began with a diamond to the ace, a club ducked to the queen, a club back to the ace followed by the ♣J for a club ruff—not the best start for Curtis. A heart to the ace then followed and the fourth club allowed Furuta to score his now singleton ♠Q. That was six tricks in for the defense and with only one entry remaining to dummy (Yokoi could ruff the third diamond) Curtis still had to lose two trump tricks for down three, -150.

In the Closed Room Sumita was sufficiently enamored of his robust hearts to lebensohl into the auction and play in 3♥. Chen led his top spade and Shen ducked this around to the queen. Next Sumita played a low club to the jack and king and Shen got out with the ♦10 to the ace. Sumita unblocked the clubs, led a heart to the ace, appreciatively noting the fall of the queen, and continued with the ♥10 to the king. The defense could now cash a spade and a diamond but nine tricks were there for +140 and an odd push; still 23-1.

Statistically speaking, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.
--

Bd: 23 North
 Dlr: South ♠ KJ94
 Vul: Both ♥ Q832

♦ J85
 ♣ A5

West
 ♠ AQ10
 ♥ J9
 ♦ Q10762
 ♣ K72

East
 ♠ 72
 ♥ AK1054
 ♦ K43
 ♣ Q64

South
 ♠ 8653
 ♥ 76
 ♦ A9
 ♣ J10983

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(F)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣(F)	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached the makeable 3NT from the West side and received the ♠4 lead to declarer's ten. Yokoi, in the Open Room, then embarked on an ill-fated line. He led a diamond to the king and ace and back came a spade. He tried the queen, lost to the king, won the spade return, and inexplicably led and passed a heart...the nine!? Now, with the heart suit blocked and not knowing that the ♣Q would be an entry, he continued with the ♥J and when Curtis ducked, overtook with the ace hoping for a 3-3 split. When that failed, he fell back on the diamond finesse and Curtis cashed out for down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Fukuyama attacked hearts at trick two and played the suit precisely the same way as Yokoi in the other room, floating the nine and then overtaking the jack. However, at trick four he did not cash dummy's remaining high heart but instead called for a low diamond. We'll never know what might have happened had Chen ducked, but he flew with the ace, thinking perhaps that he needed to rise and return a spade immediately (lest declarer steal a diamond and escape with five hearts, one spade, and three minor-suit tricks). Shen took the spade finesse, won the spade return, but now had nine tricks (four diamonds, two spades and three hearts) and that is all he took when the hearts proved to be 4-2; +600. That was 13 imps for Air-TRFC, who

closed the lead to 9 at 23-14.

Bd: 24 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 106
 Vul: None ♥ Q108
 ♦ J43
 ♣ AJ763

West
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ AK
 ♦ K109
 ♣ K10982

East
 ♠ K42
 ♥ 95
 ♦ AQ762
 ♣ Q54

South
 ♠ J9875
 ♥ J76432
 ♦ 85
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦	2NT
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

In the Open Room Yokoi-Furuta had a free run to 6NT, which needed only for Yokoi to guess the play in clubs to bring in two tricks there. He won the ♠10 lead in hand and ran the diamonds before turning to clubs. Having marked North with long spades (the ten lead must have looked to be from ten-nine-length) and three diamonds to South's two, he called for the ♣Q and immediately conceded -50.

In the Closed Room Chen "came alive" with his 6-5 and ended up in 3♥x. Fukuyama failed to find the best lead, a diamond, his ♣10 allowing Chen to pitch a diamond loser on the ace. Chen played on spades, hoping to be able to take ruff(s) in dummy, but the defense won, cashed two rounds of trumps, then reverted to clubs. Chen eventually ruffed a spade and settled for down one, -100. That was 4imps to Air-TRFC, who drew even closer at 23-18.

Somehow going one down in a freely bid slam against silent opponents rates to lose more than 4imps, don't you think?

Five tables managed to bid their way to 6♦, and with the club void on lead they needed only to guess that suit to come home. There were twice as many pairs

who bid the wrong slam, or an unlucky 6♣, or misguessed the clubs.

Bd: 25 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 1084
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQJ2
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ 972

West
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ 643
 ♦ 1087
 ♣ AJ1063

East
 ♠ AQ95
 ♥ K10875
 ♦ 6432
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ 7632
 ♥ 9
 ♦ KQ5
 ♣ KQ854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
	1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	Dbl
2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room Chen decided to show his majors over Curtis's notrump, which seems to have driven N/S to a rather poor 22-point 3NT with little to recommend it—especially with East having shown the majors. The low heart lead did not exactly help the defense, dummy's nine holding, and now Curtis came to hand with a diamond to play clubs. When Furuka showed out and Yokoi won the king with the ace to switch to the ♠K, prospects suddenly became even bleaker. After four rounds of spades Curtis could do no better than cash his remaining two diamonds and ♥A for down two, -100.

Shen received the same heart lead to the nine against his 1NT in the Closed Room. With no adverse bidding to guide him he called for the ♣K, ducked, then punted in spades. When Fukuyama's ♠J held, he switched back to partner's suit, hearts. Shen inserted the queen, losing to the king, won the heart return, and now had seven tricks for +90. That brought 5imps back to Shanghai, ahead now 28-18.

We have not seen as many four-figure penalties today as we are used to but a couple of free spirits attempted 4♥x and found the cost was 1100 or 800. To make up for this, the pairs who played 4♣x as N/S found that this one had a price-tag of -800.

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A10
 ♥ 93
 ♦ AQJ62
 ♣ AKQ7

West
 ♠ 3
 ♥ KJ10
 ♦ 1097
 ♣ J98653

East
 ♠ KJ76542
 ♥ 8752
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10

South
 ♠ Q98
 ♥ AQ64
 ♦ K543
 ♣ 42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
		2♠	Pass

Pass 3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
		Pass	Pass

Pass 1♦ 2♠ Dbl

Pass 3NT All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT from the North side, received a heart lead, and scored their game with overtricks, Shen scoring 10 tricks, Curtis 11. That was 1 imp back to Air-TRFC, trailing 28-19.

The preempt made the job very hard for N/S. But 6♦ by South is more than playable while by North it may be defeatable on a heart lead. When McCallum-Tencok were N/S Tencok heard his partner bid 3NT over 3♠ and found a mild slam invitation. McCallum offered a choice of slams and ended in 6♦, bringing it home on a club lead.

Bd: 27
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q8764
 ♥ 108
 ♦ A63
 ♣ 1063

West
 ♠ AK93
 ♥ KJ63
 ♦ 1074
 ♣ J7

East
 ♠ J10
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K982
 ♣ AQ8542

South
 ♠ 52
 ♥ AQ7542
 ♦ QJ5
 ♣ K9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>

Pass 1♠ 3♣ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>

Pass 1♠ 2♣ 1♥

All Pass 2♥

Against Furuta's 3♣ in the Open Room Chen led a spade. Furuta won the ace, came to hand with the ♣A and led a heart up. Chen flew ace, led the ♦Q to Curtis's ace and got a diamond back. Furuta won the king, crossed to dummy with a spade, pitched a diamond on the ♥K, and got off lead with the ♣J. The defense could cash the ♦J but that was it, +110 for E/W.

Against 2♥ in the Closed Room Chen got a club lead to the ace, won the club return, crossed to dummy's ♦A and took the losing heart finesse. Fukuyama won, led a diamond to the ace, and Sumita tried for a trump promotion with a third round of clubs. Chen countered by pitching a spade, but errantly so did Fukuyama (a diamond would have been better). Now Sumita switched to a diamond to Chen's queen while Fukuyama followed helplessly instead of scoring the low-trump ruff he would have had he pitched his last diamond on the previous trick. But now Chen cashed the ♥A, promoting a third trump trick for Fukuyama. Had he led a low heart toward dummy's ten he could have escaped for down one. This was the position:

North
 ♠ Q8764
 ♥ 10
 ♦ ---
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ AK3
 ♥ J63
 ♦ ---
 ♣ ---

East
 ♠ J10
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 854

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ A7542
 ♦ ---
 ♣ ---

South leads a low heart. If West rises with the jack he cannot get off lead without allowing South to ruff in and draw his ♥63 with the ♥A7. If West ducks declarer simply wins and exits with a spade (the queen is best) and West can do no better than score one of his two remaining trumps (which he always had to get). Down two, -100, still 28-19.

Bd: 28
 Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

West
 ♠ J10
 ♥ AJ972
 ♦ AKQ97
 ♣ 8

North
 ♠ Q964
 ♥ K
 ♦ 652
 ♣ KJ973

East
 ♠ 87
 ♥ Q10865
 ♦ J8
 ♣ AQ42

South
 ♠ AK532
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ 1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Hands featuring the Rabbi's Rule have seemed rare since Rabbi Helman passed away several years ago. Here it swung an imp, but not for the reason you might think—and not to the *team* you might think! In the Closed Room Fukuyama received a spade lead and the defense cashed the first two rounds, then switched to a diamond. Fukuyama won the ace in hand, laid down the ♥A felling the king, and scored up +450. In the Open Room Yokoi received a club lead, won in dummy. He passed the ♥Q to the king, and back came...a diamond! He quickly claimed 12 tricks, +480, for a 1-imp pickup. Shanghai, 29-19.

Nobody bid and made slam here, but Shi and Dong for Soaring Shou discovered that they didn't need to. It was safer and more lucrative to double 4♠ and collect 1100. We could tell you whom it was against but why spoil a beautiful friendship?

Bd: 29
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

West
 ♠ QJ62
 ♥ J82
 ♦ Q64
 ♣ 853

North
 ♠ 10873
 ♥ K3
 ♦ AKJ93
 ♣ J9

East
 ♠ A4
 ♥ AQ107
 ♦ 752
 ♣ Q1072

South
 ♠ K95
 ♥ 9654
 ♦ 108
 ♣ AK64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
	1♦	1♥	All Pass

Some players like four-card overcalls, others cringe at the very thought of one. You be the judge. In the Open Room Curtis-Chen had a normal (at least for us) auction to 1NT. Yokoi led a club to the jack, queen and ace and Chen tried a diamond to the jack. When that held he cashed the rest of the suit, pitching a heart and two clubs from hand, crossed to the ♣K and led a heart up. Furuta won the king with the ace, underled his ♠A, and when Chen rose with the king he was home free with an overtrick; +120.

In the Closed Room Sumita tried his hand at being Sonny Moyses's best friend with his 1♥ overcall, and the silence that ensued must have been deafening. (Ask not for whom the bell tolls....) Chen led the ♦10 to the jack and Shen switched to the ♣J, Q, K, 3. Back came a second diamond and now Shen cashed the king and ace (Chen pitching a spade) before reverting to clubs. Chen won the ace, gave Shen a club ruff, and the defense had the first six tricks. A spade back was ducked to Chen's king and a fourth club allowed Shen to overruff dummy's ♥J with the king. It was now 8-0, top of the ninth, and Chen still had a natural trump trick to come from his original holding of ♥9654. Down three, -300, and 5 moreimps to Shanghai Financial, ahead now 34-19.

And the hits just kept on coming.

Bd: 30
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

West
 ♠ J6
 ♥ A86
 ♦ K953
 ♣ Q953

North
 ♠ 7532
 ♥ KQ72
 ♦ AQJ7
 ♣ A

East
 ♠ AQ8
 ♥ 94
 ♦ 10864
 ♣ J1087

South
 ♠ K1094
 ♥ J1053
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fukuyama</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Sumita</i>	<i>Chen D</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Curtis's 1NT will not be everyone's cup of tea, but then what is one to do with a "balanced" 16 hcp? And besides, hasn't the ACBL decreed that it is now legal to open 1NT with a singleton ace, king or queen? Perfect. And now Chen, with a difficult decision, had to decide whether bidding 2♣ (Stayman) with a 7-count was the lesser of evils vs passing. After all, what is one to do if partner responds 2♦? Would 2♥ then be Creeping Stayman (pass or correct to 2♠) or would it be forward going? What *is* one to do? Pass you say? (Not in our world!) Perfect.

Furuta led the ♣J to the ace and Curtis led a heart to the jack and ace. Back came a club to Dummy's king, declarer pitching a diamond (and smiling sheepishly), and now a winning diamond finesse followed by three rounds of hearts ending in hand, the ace and a second diamond, and declarer conceded the rest for +120.

In the Closed Room Shen-Chen showed no imagination and bid quickly and naturally to 4♥. (The nerve in this age of artificiality.) The opening lead of a club was won perforce in dummy followed by the ♥K, then a heart to the jack and ace. Back came a spade to the ace and now declarer could draw the last trump and claim; +450. That was 8 more imps to Shanghai Financial, who closed out the match with three straight pickups to win by 42-19, 15.85 to 4.15 in VPs.

A surprising number of pairs went down in 4♥, so the datum was only +210 for N/S.

Bridge Defense - What's Going On (Courtesy of Mike Lawrence)?
(Visit Mike Lawrence's web site at: www.michaelslawrence.com)

West deals, no one vulnerable:

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

North
♠ 10542
♥ A65
♦ KQ
♣ AJ105

East
♠ 83
♥ 93
♦ 1086543
♣ 632

may mean he is looking for a trump promotion. The ♥9 isn't that big a trump, but it is the best you have. Play it and hope partner is doing the right thing.

♠ 10542
♥ A65
♦ KQ
♣ AJ105

♠ AKQJ6
♥ K107
♦ 972
♣ K7

♠ 83
♥ 93
♦ 1086543
♣ 632

♠ 97
♥ QJ842
♦ AJ
♣ Q984

West leads the ♠KA. A little surprisingly, South follows both times with the nine and seven. West now leads the ♠6 and dummy plays the five. What's going on? Doesn't partner have the ♠Q and ♠J? He did open the bidding and he did rebid them. What's up?

West has to have five spades so it is clear he is underleading the QJ when he could just as well have led the queen. Since he could have led the queen, it is clear he wants you to ruff this spade lead. That

West has defended well. By leading the ♠6, he woke East up to the necessity of ruffing. Had West led the queen, East would not have thought of ruffing. In fact, if West had led the ♠Q, East should not ruff. West should not lead a high card if he wants his partner to trump. The effect of the actual defense is that declarer has to overruff with the ♥J. West now has the heart spots to ensure two heart tricks. Without the "uppercut," West would have gotten just one trump trick.

Match Seven: YBS vs LAS FLORES

by Barry Rigal



T.Nishimura



Lin



J.Nishimura



Kuang



Cheng



Harada



Sonoike



Chi

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ K8
♥ K975
♦ A1053
♣ 965

West
♠ Q10763
♥ AJ103
♦ K
♣ J73

East
♠ 92
♥ Q62
♦ J9742
♣ K104

South
♠ AJ54
♥ 84
♦ Q86
♣ AQ82

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AQ3
♥ AK8
♦ K6
♣ 107643

West
♠ J1074
♥ 5
♦ 5432
♣ AKJ8

East
♠ 92
♥ QJ972
♦ AQJ97
♣ 2

South
♠ K865
♥ 10643
♦ 108
♣ Q95

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
T.Nishimura	Lin	J.Nishimura	Kuang
Cheng	Harada	Chi	Sonoike
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Both tables played a safe 1NT by South. Teruko Nishimura's heart lead worked better than Cheng's spade lead. Sonoike won the spade in hand, played a diamond to the king and ace, took successful finesses in clubs, then hearts, after which nine tricks were available, though he finished up with eight. That was still worth an imp when Kuang never played on diamonds and so did not exploit the favorable lie in that suit.

On the second deal both N/S pairs were frozen out of the auction, managing just one bid between them though they had the majority of high cards. That turned out to be a very good idea today, since the cards lay in very hostile fashion.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T.Nishimura	Lin	J.Nishimura	Kuang
		1♥	Pass
1NT	Dbl	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Cheng	Harada	Chi	Sonoike
		1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Kuang might have ventured 2♠ at his second turn to speak, though the final contract would doubtless have been the same. Both defenders cashed out the spades and declarer took trump finesses, ruffed out the hearts and walked away with +130.

Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 85
 ♥ K1098
 ♦ 98754
 ♣ 95

West
 ♠ KQ4
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ K742

East
 ♠ 976
 ♥ A432
 ♦ A62
 ♣ QJ3

South
 ♠ AJ1032
 ♥ 76
 ♦ J10
 ♣ A1086

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After three deals the players were proving to be very consistent in their valuations. Both Norths led an interior heart. Cheng won in hand to lead a club to the jack and ace. He ducked the next heart, won the diamond switch, then played on spades for his ninth trick. Teruko played a club to the jack, ducked by Kuang. Now declarer came to hand with a diamond to lead a second club up. Kuang won, played back a heart, and the play essentially transposed into the same position as the one Cheng had reached, with the ninth trick coming from spades.

In the match where Auken-Welland were N/S, Welland opened 1♠ in first seat and against 3NT Auken led a spade to the ten and queen. Declarer led a club to the jack and when it held he should have crossed to hand with a diamond to lead a second club up (as Tony Nunn did for SWAT in the other room). Instead, he led a low heart from dummy to his queen and North's ace, and a spade back sank the contract without trace.

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q10842
 ♥ A1076
 ♦ 73
 ♣ K2

West
 ♠ 75
 ♥ 843
 ♦ K1062
 ♣ AJ97

East
 ♠ 963
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ J4
 ♣ 86543

South
 ♠ AKJ
 ♥ K92
 ♦ AQ985
 ♣ Q10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥(♠+♥)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Finally we arrived at a variation in the auction—albeit one which led to the same contract, simply played the other way up. Sonoike won the trump lead, drew trumps, then led a diamond to the queen and king. The defenders cleared clubs and now it was clearly right to cash the ♦A and run the ♦9 when the jack appeared. Sonoike ruffed the third diamond in dummy, played on hearts, and the 3-3 break meant that he was not punished.

By contrast, Lin declared 4♠ as North on a low club lead to the jack and king. He took a diamond finesse and when it lost the defenders cashed a club, then shifted to hearts. Now it was safe to win in dummy, draw trumps and play on hearts. No swing.

Both tables stopped safely in game with a pair of hands that possessed limited slam interest (but were missing two aces and the trump queen). Both played trumps from the top and claimed 450. It was still 1-0 (as indeed it was in our other featured match).

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ A1052
 ♥ 965
 ♦ AQ65
 ♣ A3

West
 ♠ K4
 ♥ A1032
 ♦ ---
 ♣ Q987642

East
 ♠ QJ97
 ♥ K8
 ♦ KJ10832
 ♣ 5

South
 ♠ 863
 ♥ QJ74
 ♦ 974
 ♣ KJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♣
2NT(1)	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

(1) Good-bad 2NT

Cheng had the sequence to get to play 3♣—he just didn't have the partner to let him do it. One can indeed sympathize with West's attempt to get out of clubs but it wasn't the time and place for rescue activities. Cheng put up a brave performance in 4♣ after the defenders led the ♠A and shifted to hearts. He won in hand, unblocked spades, then crossed to the ♥K and led spade winners. When South ruffed the fourth he overruffed, then ruffed a heart in dummy. Now he could ruff a diamond and lead a trump to South. Each defender had a master trump and the fourth heart allowed them to score them separately for down one. In the other room the initial heart lead must have seen Junko Nishimura putting down her dummy in fear and trembling facing a partner who could not open in third chair or overcall. But all was well. The defenders scored a trick in each major and three trumps but +90 meant LAS FLORES were now ahead 6-0.

YBS got on the board when against a vulnerable game the defenders failed to cash both their winners in a side suit in a desperate attempt to generate tricks elsewhere. Then YBS bought the contract in both rooms (never a terrible idea at low levels, with neither side vulnerable).

Bd: 8	North		
Dir: West	♠ AJ83		
Vul: None	♥ A1052		
	♦ 1084		
	♣ 87		
		East	
West		♠ KQ952	
♠ 764		♥ 843	
♥ Q76		♦ A73	
♦ K6		♣ 106	
♣ KJ943			
	South		
	♠ 10		
	♥ KJ9		
	♦ QJ952		
	♣ AQ52		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbf
2♥(♠)	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Despite the previous paragraph I'm completely unconvinced by that 3♠ bid. Still, maybe the result would change my mind. Sonoike led the ♦Q to declarer's ace. When Chi played the ♣10 Sonoike won and shifted to the technically accurate ♥J. Nice play, but Harada had not read the same text books. When declarer ducked nonchalantly in dummy Harada won the ace to return the suit. Now declarer could lead a spade to the king, a diamond to dummy, a spade to the nine, then finesse clubs and run winners through North to neutralize those trumps; +140 and a triumph for the 3♠ bid. Never any doubt.

Admittedly the cards lay fairly poorly for Lin in 1♥. (And you might care to contrast the aggression of the two Easts here.) After a top spade lead declarer managed to ruff two spades in dummy and score the ♣A and ♥K, with the ♥A10 good for two tricks at the end. Six hard-earned imps for a 7-6 lead.

Both E/W pairs then worked diligently to make a 2♥ contract on a 4-3 fit, recording eight tricks in each room. Time was running out for excitement. The next deal briefly promised fireworks—but they turned out to be damp squibs.

Bd: 10	North		
Dir: East	♠ K10954		
Vul: Both	♥ AK9732		
	♦ 10		
	♣ 5		
		West	East
		♠ 32	♠ J86
		♥ 6	♥ QJ5
		♦ J9743	♦ AK65
		♣ A10987	♣ Q62
		South	
		♠ AQ7	
		♥ 1084	
		♦ Q82	
		♣ KJ43	

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
		1♦	Pass
3♦	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Identical auctions, but Teruko led the ♣A to shift to a heart while Cheng led his heart. The ♦A got away

in the Closed Room and YBS were now 2imps ahead at 8-6. They added another overtrick imp when it worked out better to lead from the ♠QJ, the suit in which dummy had AK1094, than the queen from ♦QJ, the suit where dummy had three small.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 65
 Vul: N/S ♡ Q10
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ J987532

West
 ♠ A74
 ♡ K973
 ♦ AK1062
 ♣ Q

East
 ♠ KQJ3
 ♡ AJ86
 ♦ 973
 ♣ A6

South
 ♠ 10982
 ♡ 542
 ♦ J84
 ♣ K104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
1♦	Pass	1♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠(♡Q?)	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
1♦	Pass	1♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♡	All Pass

I'm not sure whether Chi could not construct a hand where a grand slam was playable after the keycard response. In any event he jumped to slam while Junko looked for the grand slam and gave up when the ♠Q was missing. Both declarers received a spade lead and went after hearts. Which of the options (low to the king, or low to the jack) do you go for? I would have thought low to the jack is best, but neither declarer opted for that, and of course today it didn't matter.

Bd: 13 North
 Dlr: North ♠ A5
 Vul: Both ♡ 876
 ♦ 973
 ♣ AJ865

West
 ♠ 8
 ♡ A109532
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ 742

East
 ♠ J1097643
 ♡ QJ
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ K10

South
 ♠ KQ2
 ♡ K4
 ♦ K10642
 ♣ Q93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Nishimura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J.Nishimura</i>	<i>Kuang</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♡	1♠(1)	2♠	Pass
3♡	All Pass		

(1) Denies four or more spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Chi</i>	<i>Sonoike</i>
	Pass	2♠	All Pass

The 7-1 spade suit handles for three trump losers and the ♣A, but in 2♡ on a diamond lead Teruko could arrange to ruff a diamond, run the ♠Q, and take ten painless tricks for an overtrick back to LAS FLORES. They trailed 9-7 with one deal to go.

On what looked an unexciting hand (the defenders can set up their diamonds and force declarer to cash out nine tricks) YBS did just that. LAS FLORES went in search of gold at the end of the rainbow and conceded 2 overtrick imps. We would hope for something more exciting in the nightcap match.

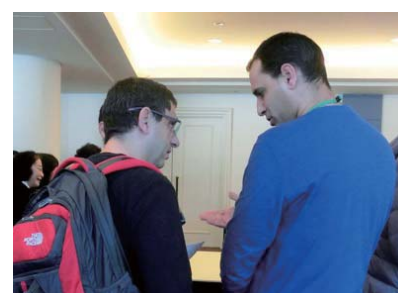
People who argue whether the glass is half full or half empty miss the point. The glass is refillable!



"Watch me fold this into a crane."



"I can't believe what I just saw."



"Look at it from my perspective."

Match Eight: YBT vs England/USA

by Barry Rigal



Shih



McCallum



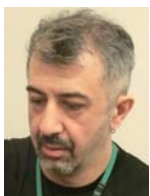
Wang



Brock



Liran



Tuncok



Friedlander



Myers

The set started in lackluster fashion as two balanced hands with a combined 30-count played 3NT as E/W, making 490 when a couple of finesses succeeded. This was as close to a flat board around the room as one could hope for except that when Espen Erichsen and David Bakhshi held the strong hands their Singapore opponents thought it would be safe to make a lead directing double of an artificial relay with \diamond AJ83. The Brits played $2\diamond$ xx with a trump suit of \diamond Q4 facing \diamond K102 and wrapped up an overtrick for +760.

The next 3NT contract was far more interesting.

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
 \spadesuit K5
 \heartsuit 1097
 \diamond 9432
 \clubsuit Q1097

West
 \spadesuit AQJ7
 \heartsuit KJ3
 \diamond Q7
 \clubsuit K542

South
 \spadesuit 942
 \heartsuit 8642
 \diamond KJ105
 \clubsuit A3

East
 \spadesuit 10863
 \heartsuit AQ5
 \diamond A86
 \clubsuit J86

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
 \spadesuit A75
 \heartsuit 1064
 \diamond 972
 \clubsuit J986

West
 \spadesuit K1042
 \heartsuit 732
 \diamond J5
 \clubsuit K1074

South
 \spadesuit 9
 \heartsuit KQJ98
 \diamond AKQ3
 \clubsuit Q32

East
 \spadesuit QJ863
 \heartsuit A5
 \diamond 10864
 \clubsuit A5

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Shih	McCallum	Wang	Tuncok
Brock	Liran	Myers	Friedlander
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Easts did well to drive to 3NT without using Stayman. Both Norths led the \heartsuit 10 and gleaned that the suit was dead at trick one. They won the \spadesuit K at trick two and Liran shifted to the \diamond 9 while McCallum played the \clubsuit 10. In the first instance Brock won her

\diamond Q and had little option but to lead a club to the king for her ninth trick before the defenders established diamonds. Shih covered the \clubsuit 10 with the jack and the defenders set up clubs, but declarer had nine tricks. No swing.

Would a passive heart exit at trick three have given declarer any losing options? Apparently so, if we compare results round the room where 3NT went down quite regularly on a heart lead. Slightly less than half the field made game here and the datum of 130 is distorted by a few pairs at the foot of the table who let through $4\spadesuit$.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	McCallum	Wang	Tuncok
Pass	$1\diamond$	$1\spadesuit$	$1\heartsuit$ (16+)
$3\spadesuit$	All Pass		$2\heartsuit$

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Liran	Myers	Friedlander
Pass	1NT	Pass	$1\heartsuit$
Pass	$2\heartsuit$	$2\spadesuit$	$2\diamond$
Pass	$3\heartsuit$	All Pass	Dbl(1)
(1)Extras			

Friedlander received a spade lead against 3♥ and won to drive out the ♥A. He ruffed the second spade, then went after diamonds in case the same hand was short in both red suits. West could ruff and play a spade, but declarer had time to play on clubs and when he led to the nine he had his ninth trick.

Shih gave due respect to his partner's vulnerable overcall in a strong club auction and committed his side to 3♠. With the ♠A in the hand with no entries, the defenders could never lead more than two rounds of trumps, so Wang could take four spade tricks in hand, three side-suit winners and two diamond ruffs in dummy. A well-earned 7 imps to YBT.

For the record, rather more pairs let through 4♥ than you might expect. If the defenders do not go after club ruffs declarer might be able to set up the clubs by normal play, so long as he leaves one trump out to deal with spade forces by ruffing in dummy.

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 10632
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AQJ93

West
 ♠ 75
 ♥ 953
 ♦ KQJ96
 ♣ K76

East
 ♠ KQ84
 ♥ 84
 ♦ A87432
 ♣ 2

South
 ♠ AJ9
 ♥ AQ762
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 10854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	1♦(1+)	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) XYZ: puppet to 2♦, to play there or invite game

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♣	Dbl	3♦	4♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

McCallum silenced her opponents by stealing the diamond suit and after an XYZ sequence jumped to game knowing that despite her minimum she had huge potential for hearts. Tuncok lost a spade and a diamond for a comfortable +650, good for a gain of

4 imps when 5♦x cost 500.

On to one of the more sensational deals of the event.

Bd: 21 North
 Dlr: North ♠ J1092
 Vul: N/S ♥ 654
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AJ1062

West
 ♠ A
 ♥ 8732
 ♦ 765432
 ♣ 85

East
 ♠ K764
 ♥ KJ109
 ♦ J98
 ♣ K4

South
 ♠ Q853
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ Q973

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
1♠(1)	Pass	1♦(1+)	Dbl
Pass	Dbl	1NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) No major

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Shih led a diamond against 4♠, won his ♠A and shifted to hearts. Declarer won in hand and played a spade, ducked, and another spade. Wang won and after some reflection continued with a heart. Declarer knew the club finesse was losing, but had he taken it he would have been home. However, he decided East had begun with 4-4-4-1 shape and led a club to the ace and another club. A third heart now left him without resource since he had no communication left in clubs.

Nice defense, but in the other room, where East had not bid, Brock led a heart to trick one. Declarer won in hand, knocked out the ♠A, won the heart return, and played a second trump. When the nine held he could see that a third trump would be fatal if the ♣K was wrong. Instead, he crossed to hand with a diamond and passed the ♣9, Myers ducking smoothly. Nicely done, up to a point, since declarer really had no reason not to repeat the finesse, and now Myers won, cashed the ♠K and played the third heart to leave declarer without the communications to draw trumps. But ducking the club was a

Grosvenor Gambit, since winning and playing back either a club or a heart is good enough to beat the game whatever declarer does.

Where Ashley Bach was declarer in 4♠ Nan Wang, as East, had passed throughout. Huang Yan led a diamond and Bach won and played on trumps. The defenders ducked the second trump and won the third, just as in the Open Room above. Here Bach finessed in clubs and repeated the finesse when Nan ducked. Again, when East won and played a third heart, this was good enough to set the game.

Since these were the first three stories we heard about the deal we were a little surprised to discover that only four other pairs defeated 4♠ here.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 987
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q10
 ♦ QJ97
 ♣ J654

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J532
 ♦ A106543
 ♣ Q98

East
 ♠ AQJ6
 ♥ A984
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K1032

South
 ♠ K105432
 ♥ K76
 ♦ K2
 ♣ A7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♥	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
		1♣	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♥	3♣
4♥	All Pass		

Against 4♠x Wang (not envisaging the diamond layout) won the ♥A and shifted to a diamond to get the ruff with her small trump. So far so good, but now declarer could rise with the ♣A, unblock hearts, and lead winning diamonds to neutralize East's trump tricks. The defenders scored two red aces and three trumps for down 300.

This was not enough, since 4♥ on a low spade lead handled very nicely. Declarer won in hand, pitching a club, and led a club up. Friedlander had to take his ace or declarer wins the queen, plays the ♦A and ruffs a diamond, then pitches the last club on the ♠A

and ruffs out the ♣A. South elected to return a club at trick three. Myers won the queen in dummy, ducked a heart, and won the next heart to cross-ruff clubs and diamonds. Whenever South overruffed, he would have to lead away from his ♠K into declarer's tenace. Making 4♥ here was worth 8 imps compared to the datum of E/W 280.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ AK10
 Vul: Both ♥ A62
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AKQ32

West
 ♠ Q9832
 ♥ QJ43
 ♦ 953
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 10975
 ♦ KJ107
 ♣ 109874

South
 ♠ J7654
 ♥ K8
 ♦ A842
 ♣ J6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣(16+)	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
			Pass
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
(1) Multi			

Both tables had sensible enough sequences to the playable 6♠—playable, that is, until the trump break comes to light. Liran won the club lead in dummy to play a trump to his ace to find the bad news. Then he led a top club from hand and Brock ruffed to exit in spades. Eventually she scored her second trump trick and was able to lock declarer in dummy to concede two diamond tricks. Down three, +300, was good for 5 imps for England/USA. In the other room on a heart lead McCallum had been allowed to set up the clubs to pitch both diamonds from dummy, when Shih ruffed a club loser not a winner. In addition, Shih did not find the diamond shift in time to set up his side's tricks there.

So who can make what here? Five N/S pairs went plus; three pairs of timid souls played game (one made 620 and two made notrump games). Everyone else went minus, generally in 6♠, but step forward (drum-roll!) Lee Hansang and Min Soenyong of Gladiator and Park mungkee and Hwang lynrung of KLS who made 6NT from the North seat. After a club lead you take the spade finesse and run three spades. The defenders can still prevail on accurate discarding but if East slips, and discards a club, you can run the clubs pitching a diamond from dummy on the third. At this point West has to keep both spades and so must unguard either hearts or diamonds by coming down to a doubleton. If West pitches a heart you run clubs and throw East in with a heart to lead diamonds. If West pitches diamonds to keep hearts, then East has to pitch a heart on the fifth club. Now you lead the ♦Q, duck East's king, and on the forced red-suit return win in dummy. The ♦A will squeeze West in the majors.

Before we had time to catch our breath, yet another Deep Finesse special presented itself.

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J654
 ♥ K7
 ♦ A5
 ♣ AK853

West
 ♠ 9
 ♥ J1092
 ♦ QJ642
 ♣ 1062

East
 ♠ KQ1072
 ♥ A5
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ Q94

South
 ♠ A83
 ♥ Q8643
 ♦ K73
 ♣ J7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	1♦(1+)	1♠	Dbl
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT after each North had shown extras in the context of their opening bid style. Both Easts led a top spade against 3NT. Liran won the ace and played a heart to the king and ace. Myers won to shift to the ♦10. Declarer won in hand, ducked a heart, won the next diamond, played the ♥Q to find the bad news, then ran the ♣J to Myers, who led a diamond to his partner to cash her red-suit

winners for down three.

McCallum did much better. She ducked the opening lead, won the diamond shift in hand and led a club up. Wang won and pressed on with diamonds (see below). McCallum ducked in dummy and Shih overtook to play the ♥J, ducked to the queen. Now McCallum overtook the ♣J and ran the suit, then threw Wang in with a heart to lead spades for the ninth trick. The 12-imp pickup made it 28-7 for England/USA.

The analysis on this deal is extremely complex. I'll rely on Deep Finesse, who says: either a high or low spade lead or diamond defeats the game at trick one. If declarer ducks the first spade, either a spade or diamond continuation still beats the game. But if declarer ducks the first diamond, you must then go back to spades to set 3NT. If declarer wins the ♦A and leads clubs up you must win and, remarkably, continue *clubs* to disrupt declarer's entries. Anyone who does that deserves the defense of the year.

On the next deal with a blind lead to 1NT both Easts led a heart from 10984 (catching partner with ♥AJ doubleton), not a spade from 832 to find partner with ♠QJ109. That let the contract through and the match score remained 28-7.

Bd: 26
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q109875
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 864
 ♣ 862

West
 ♠ 43
 ♥ K109
 ♦ AJ2
 ♣ AK743

East
 ♠ A62
 ♥ AQ74
 ♦ KQ103
 ♣ 95

South
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ J8652
 ♦ 975
 ♣ QJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
2♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
		6♦	All Pass

3NT was a perfectly sensible spot, 6♦ a very good (if

not great) slam. Wang set up clubs for 12 tricks in 3NT, but in 6♦ Myers received a trump lead. He won in dummy and ducked a spade, won the trump return in hand, ruffed a spade in dummy, then crossed to a top heart to draw trumps. Now he needed either a club break, a heart break, or a club-heart squeeze. The clubs duly behaved for him. I'm not sure how one would play 6♦ on a heart lead; I guess when dummy's nine holds you have to draw trumps and duck a club.

For the record, though, four other pairs made slam here: two played notrump and two played clubs. I guess that makes this the best bid hand of the tournament...so far. England/USA led 42-7 now.

Not content with earning imps in respectable fashion Tuncok stole 6 imps on the next deal, opening a weak 2♠ (systemically) with nobody vulnerable on: ♠J7542 ♥4 ♦QJ5 ♣8742. His side bought the hand in 3♠ (McCallum had a strong notrump with four trumps but did not go beyond 3♠) while curiously they never bid spades at all in the other room and sold out to 1NT for -90.

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ A543
 Vul: Both ♥ Q10843
 ♦ J4
 ♣ K10

West
 ♠ KQ106
 ♥ K2
 ♦ 10953
 ♣ J62

East
 ♠ J9
 ♥ 975
 ♦ AQ862
 ♣ 953

South
 ♠ 872
 ♥ AJ6
 ♦ K7
 ♣ AQ874

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass	2NT(Max)
Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass	3♥
All Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass	3♠(♥+♠)	Pass	4♥

The Smolen sequence put Brock off leading a spade. When she led a diamond Myers had to win and shift to spades, far from obvious even if declarer was marked with club length. He actually shifted to clubs and now declarer could win in dummy and finesse

hearts. Brock won to play spades, but declarer had the clubs ready to run for ten tricks. In the other room Shih led a top spade and shifted to a diamond when it was ducked all around. Wang won her ace and reverted to spades, and now declarer had no chance anymore. That made it 46-19 for England/USA.

Game went down more often than it was made here. The datum was N/S +210; at least half the field played a partscore, though.

Time for one more swing:

Bd: 30 North
 Dir: East ♠ J8632
 Vul: None ♥ K94
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AQJ76

West
 ♠ AK7
 ♥ AJ1063
 ♦ AK63
 ♣ 4

East
 ♠ Q1094
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ 108752
 ♣ 32

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 852
 ♦ QJ94
 ♣ K10985

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
1♣	3♦(1)	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♠	Pass	3♥
All Pass			5♣

(1) Reds/Blacks

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
1♥	2♥(♠+m)	Pass	2NT
Dbl	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Shih led a top diamond against 5♣x. Tuncok ruffed and led a spade off the dummy. Wang won to play a trump, won in dummy as declarer ruffed a spade to hand, ran the ♦J pitching a heart, and led a heart to the king to complete the cross-ruff and establish the spades for 11 tricks. At the other table it was Liran, North, as declarer. The ♥Q lead meant the defenders were ahead in the race to establish hearts before declarer could build a diamond trick. Down one, and 12 imps to England/USA, winners by 58-19.

Eleven N/S pairs were doubled in lucrative club contracts, some as low as 3♣. The datum was N/S +140, no E/W pair doing better than +140 in hearts, in itself no mean feat.

21st NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thursday (Feb. 9)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (9)	414, 415, 416, 417
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (10)	418, 419
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (11)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (12)	
Friday (Feb. 10)	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. 11)	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. 12)	10:00-17:30	Yokohama 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



Alert!

Teams failing to submit their line up in time (10 minutes before the start of the match) will receive a 1-VP penalty (per offense). You've been warned.

Real-Time NEC Cup Match Updates on the Web

Wondering how your favorite team is doing RIGHT NOW? Surf to the JCBL home page
<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/21st/tabid/1429/Default.aspx>
 and click on a Results link.