



# NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 10, 2017  
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## NEC Cup: Day Three

At the end of Day Three, the top eight team qualified for the knockout stage. The top qualifier was team China Dalain Aoxin (Huo Shiyu, Chen Jun, Li Xiaoyi, Hu Linlin) with 170.10 VPs. Second was Team Israel (Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy) with 165.04 VPs, third was Team England/USA (Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Karen McCallum, Cenk Tuncok) with 158.92 VPs and fourth was team New Zealand (Martin Reid, Peter Newell, Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach) with 144.85 VPs. Qualifying fourth through eighth were SARA, Hackett, Wuhan Dongfang BC and Zhiyijia. (Complete Day One rankings are below; individual results for Matches 9-12 are on page 6.) For the quarterfinals, China Dalain Aoxin chose Hackett as their opponents, Israel chose Zhiyijia, England/USA chose Wuhan Dongfang BC and New Zealand was left to play SARA.

## NEC Cup Qualifying: Final Standings (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	China Dalian Aoxin. . .	170.10	19	Beijing Trinergy. . . . .	125.92	37	OK team. . . . .	109.52
2	Israel. . . . .	165.04	20	Air-TRFC. . . . .	125.11	38	Fukuyoshi. . . . .	108.99
3	England/USA. . . . .	158.92	21	Kosing. . . . .	124.56	39	Rimi. . . . .	108.07
4	New Zealand. . . . .	144.85	22	NANIWADA. . . . .	124.08	40	BACH. . . . .	107.31
5	SARA. . . . .	143.14	23	LAS FLORES. . . . .	124.07	41	Morimura. . . . .	107.15
6	Hackett. . . . .	142.84	24	HIRATA. . . . .	122.34	42	YOYO5. . . . .	106.98
7	Wuhan Dongfang BC. . .	142.74	25	China Happy. . . . .	121.27	43	Tropezienne. . . . .	106.94
8	Zhiyijia. . . . .	141.76	26	Sakurai. . . . .	118.72	44	skylark. . . . .	105.55
9	China Open. . . . .	141.73	27	POSEIDON. . . . .	118.17	45	Gladiator. . . . .	103.61
10	Soaring Shou. . . . .	141.27	28	kaTsube. . . . .	116.14	46	KLS. . . . .	101.85
11	England/Norway. . . . .	141.06	29	Australia. . . . .	115.96	47	River Side. . . . .	101.24
12	SWAT Squad. . . . .	140.67	30	Shanghai Financial. . .	115.33	48	Kimura@Yokohama. . .	98.16
13	China Ladies. . . . .	137.48	31	HOSHI. . . . .	114.26	49	Joy. . . . .	84.74
14	China Relaxation. . . . .	136.47	32	Japan Youth. . . . .	113.8	50	Hanmaum. . . . .	80.83
15	Senior 2017. . . . .	135.95	33	Midori. . . . .	113.67	51	Key Bridge. . . . .	73.42
16	YBT. . . . .	135.62	34	MASA. . . . .	112.43	52	Bridge View. . . . .	71.49
17	YBS. . . . .	134.21	35	KinKi. . . . .	111.41	53	Challenge. . . . .	65.41
18	TBA. . . . .	131.3	36	Katsumata. . . . .	110.89			

## NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.bridgebase.com)

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Matches will feature Israel (2) vs Zhiyijia (8)  
and New Zealand (4) vs SARA (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: 21<sup>st</sup> 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, Namyeon Kim, Ingu Hwang, Sungsook Kang
17	KOREA Gladiator:	Min Soenyoung, 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 Inrungr
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

### 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.

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to;
  - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
  - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

- All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
- Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
- All calls after a natural notrump (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges, neither of which exceeds 3 HCP). No conventional responses are allowed over natural notrump bids with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP.

### Competitive Bids

- Any conventional balancing calls.
- Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
- Notrump overcall for either:
  - two-suited takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit. (At the 4 level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.)
  - three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
- Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
- Cuebid of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak, directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
- Comic 1NT overcall.
- Defense to:
  - conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
  - natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
  - opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
- Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
- Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

### Carding

- All leads and signaling methods are approved except for: a) odd-even signals, b) encrypted signals, c) dual-message carding strategies, except on each defender's first discard, d) any method when the pair using it are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo.

## LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

## Thursday's Match Results

Team #	Match 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	6	56	18.76	98.64	45	44	16.88	115.52	25	44	18.29	133.81	7	39	9.03	142.84
2	26	27	10.66	101.79	13	40	18.17	119.96	29	47	14.19	134.15	4	30	6.52	140.67
3	14	20	4.74	120.23	15	44	17.04	137.27	34	32	8.42	145.69	28	27	13.23	158.92
4	15	17	12.44	134.38	34	21	6.52	140.9	10	25	10.66	151.56	2	42	13.48	165.04
5	7	43	17.04	104.85	25	14	7.56	112.41	33	32	12.44	124.85	50	86	20	144.85
6	1	13	1.24	82.81	42	11	0.44	83.25	53	49	12.71	95.96	23	86	20	115.96
7	5	13	2.96	92.6	51	76	20	112.6	36	57	17.49	130.09	1	42	10.97	141.06
8	33	28	13.72	102.5	10	20	2.81	105.31	11	47	18.65	123.96	12	63	17.77	141.73
9	30	36	12.97	92.73	33	21	8.72	101.45	38	36	16.03	117.48	47	81	20	137.48
10	25	24	7.56	103.5	8	51	17.19	120.69	4	23	9.34	130.03	15	27	12.71	142.74
11	29	6	1.02	100.94	26	14	6.52	107.46	8	5	1.35	108.81	43	31	6.52	115.33
12	51	44	12.97	98.23	24	60	17.04	115.27	26	17	8.42	123.69	8	28	2.23	125.92
13	36	45	14.42	100.16	2	2	1.83	101.99	45	34	15.66	117.65	25	13	3.62	121.27
14	3	40	15.26	120.44	50	50	17.77	138.21	28	34	14.85	153.06	34	38	17.04	170.1
15	4	9	7.56	110.96	3	14	2.96	113.92	35	38	15.26	129.18	10	18	7.29	136.47
16	52	8	0	63.05	39	48	15.85	78.9	TW	52	14.85	93.75	18	43	13.23	106.98
17	44	31	10.97	76.58	49	24	4.34	80.92	21	53	15.66	96.58	19	9	7.03	103.61
18	TW	13	6.04	51.09	32	39	16.55	67.64	39	29	10.33	77.97	16	32	6.77	84.74
19	46	33	12.97	84.32	52	22	7.29	91.61	51	20	4.94	96.55	17	19	12.97	109.52
20	49	43	17.77	87.58	38	24	9.03	96.61	24	20	2.66	99.27	41	11	1.96	101.85
21	TW	37	17.63	50.64	53	15	6.52	56.92	17	31	4.34	61.26	TW	11	4.15	65.41
22	TW	19	4.74	49.46	TW	13	3.97	53.43	TW	51	8.72	62.15	40	36	9.34	71.49
23	53	33	14.19	69.48	TW	28	7.56	77.04	27	24	3.79	80.83	6	17	0	80.83
24	37	27	12.44	97.32	12	30	2.96	100.28	20	52	17.34	117.62	35	20	7.56	124.56
25	10	32	12.44	105.09	5	22	12.44	117.53	1	5	1.71	119.24	13	39	16.38	135.62
26	2	25	9.34	101.86	11	26	13.48	115.34	12	22	11.58	126.92	29	41	7.29	134.21
27	48	33	11.87	81.53	47	7	0	81.53	23	49	16.21	97.74	44	32	10.33	108.07
28	50	32	12.71	110.37	29	53	19.47	129.84	14	16	5.15	134.99	3	16	6.77	141.76
29	11	51	18.98	122.22	28	3	0.53	122.75	2	32	5.81	128.56	26	50	12.71	141.27
30	9	26	7.03	87.75	37	41	17.63	105.38	50	25	3.12	108.5	46	21	9.67	118.17
31	38	29	6.77	77.88	48	25	9.03	86.91	40	57	18.17	105.08	45	7	2.23	107.31
32	47	16	1.71	63.93	18	12	3.45	67.38	TW	25	6.04	73.42	53	5	0	73.42
33	8	15	6.28	97.11	9	25	11.28	108.39	5	24	7.56	115.95	36	70	20	135.95
34	45	44	18.04	115.12	4	33	13.48	128.6	3	37	11.58	140.18	14	8	2.96	143.14
35	40	44	17.91	95.71	43	65	18.41	114.12	15	18	4.74	118.86	24	28	12.44	131.3
36	13	29	5.58	92	41	34	16.38	108.38	7	24	2.51	110.89	33	4	0	110.89
37	24	19	7.56	87.74	30	7	2.37	90.11	48	40	14.19	104.3	49	32	8.13	112.43
38	31	40	13.23	86.76	20	27	10.97	97.73	9	12	3.97	101.7	52	13	7.29	108.99
39	43	13	1.13	75.63	16	25	4.15	79.78	18	28	9.67	89.45	TW	42	17.49	106.94
40	35	8	2.09	80.93	46	17	4.74	85.67	31	19	1.83	87.5	22	38	10.66	98.16
41	42	35	12.44	88.44	36	8	3.62	92.06	49	25	6.04	98.1	20	48	18.04	116.14
42	41	27	7.56	82.15	6	62	19.56	101.71	47	6	6.52	108.23	51	36	15.85	124.08
43	39	57	18.87	92.63	35	25	1.59	94.22	52	29	14.64	108.86	11	43	13.48	122.34
44	17	28	9.03	75.2	TW	51	17.34	92.54	46	12	4.94	97.48	27	31	9.67	107.15
45	34	7	1.96	98.84	1	15	3.12	101.96	13	12	4.34	106.3	31	42	17.77	124.07
46	19	23	7.03	78.07	40	37	15.26	93.33	44	31	15.06	108.39	30	22	10.33	118.72
47	32	55	18.29	80.78	27	74	20	100.78	42	18	13.48	114.26	9	6	0	114.26
48	27	27	8.13	77.43	31	28	10.97	88.4	37	25	5.81	94.21	TW	19	7.03	101.24
49	20	8	2.23	72.18	17	46	15.66	87.84	41	39	13.96	101.8	37	38	11.87	113.67
50	28	23	7.29	105.78	14	15	2.23	108.23	30	54	16.88	125.11	5	18	0	125.11
51	12	34	7.03	92.2	7	0	0	92.2	19	39	15.06	107.26	42	13	4.15	111.41
52	16	67	20	83.02	19	31	12.71	95.73	43	12	5.36	101.09	38	22	12.71	113.8
53	23	18	5.81	64.78	21	27	13.48	78.26	6	40	7.29	85.55	32	67	20	105.55

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

## 21<sup>st</sup> NEC CUP Qualifying Datum Rankings (4 matches or more)

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
1	1.77	Hu Junjie	Chen Yichao	Zhiyijia	8
2	1.36	Li Xiaoyi	Hu Linlin	China Dalian Aoxin	12
3	1.33	Masayuki Ino	Tadashi Imakura	Senior 2017	5
4	1.29	Sanekata Sonoike	Yuki Harada	LAS FLORES	4
5	1.21	Kazuhiko Yamada	Tadashi Imakura	Senior 2017	5
6-7	1.14	Zhao Hailong	Fu Zhong	China Relaxation	6
6-7	1.14	Youngmee Kim	Ingu Hwang	YOYO5	4
8-9	1.09	Toshiro Nose	Hideo Togawa	NANIWADA	4
8-9	1.09	Tsuneo Sakurai	Haruyoshi Sato	Sakurai	4
10	1.05	Gui Shengyue	Gao Fei	Wuhan Dongfang BC	4
11	1.02	Toby Curtis	Chen Yuechen	Air-TRFC	4
12	0.89	Sally Brock	Barry Myers	England/USA	12
13	0.88	Zhang Bangxiang	Li Jianwei	China Open	9
14	0.83	Jason Hackett	Alex Hydes	Hackett	12
15	0.79	Michael Barel	Yaniv Zack	Israel	12
16	0.76	Patrick Huang	Jonky Chung	YBS	8
17	0.7	Michael Cornell	Ashley Bach	New Zealand	12
18-19	0.67	Sabine Auken	Roy Welland	SWAT Squad	12
18-19	0.67	Michael Whibley	Justin Howard	Australia	12
20	0.65	Ilan Bareket	Assaf Lengy	Israel	12
21-22	0.62	Lu Yan	Liu Yan	China Ladies	8
21-22	0.62	Shan Baisong	Chen Dawei	Shanghai Financial	7
23	0.59	Hiroya Abe	Hidenori Narita	POSEIDON	12
24	0.55	Takeshi Niekawa	Shugo Tanaka	SARA	8
25	0.52	Shi Bin	Dong Chunhui	Soaring Shou	12
26	0.51	Liu Xiaoping	Sheng Ming	China Relaxation	6
27	0.48	Tadashi Teramoto	Hideki Takano	SARA	6
28	0.47	Karen McCallum	Cenk Tuncok	England/USA	12
29-31	0.46	Yang Lixin	Dai Jianming	China Open	9
29-31	0.46	Zhao Yonghui	Liu Haitao	China Happy	7
29-31	0.46	Tadahiro Kikuchi	Naoto Katagiri	Japan Youth	4
32	0.43	Koki Kobayashi	Eishi Imakiire	Japan Youth	4
33-35	0.4	Wang Wenfei	Shen Qi	China Ladies	8
33-35	0.4	Peer Bach	Setsuko Lichtnecker	BACH	12
33-35	0.4	Hiroko Tanaka	Emi Sakata	River Side	8
36	0.39	Min Soenyoung	Lee Hansang	Gladiator	12
37-38	0.37	Loo Choon Chou	Yang Jiahong	Kosing	12
37-38	0.37	Shih Jueiyu	Wang Ping	YBT	11
39	0.36	David Bakhshi	Espen Erichsen	England/Norway	12
40	0.35	Makoto Hirata	Tadashi Yoshida	HIRATA	7
41	0.34	Lu Dong	Li Rui	Beijing Trinergy	5
42	0.33	Sun Shaolin	Kang Meng	Beijing Trinergy	11
43	0.3	Tian Wei	Li Zhenhe	Soaring Shou	12
44	0.29	Hideo Togawa	Hisami Kataoka	NANIWADA	8
45	0.27	Yasuyoshi Toriumi	Setsuko Kimura	Kimura?Yokohama	4
46-47	0.25	You Jianyong	Yang Cai	Wuhan Dongfang BC	9
46-47	0.25	Terumi Kubo	Hiroaki Miura	TBA	12
48	0.24	Toshihiro Katsube	Masako Katsube	kaTsube	12
49-51	0.23	Terje Aa	Allan Livgard	England/Norway	12
49-51	0.23	Jackson Lai	LH Chin	Rimi	12
49-51	0.23	Masako Azuma	Keiko Ishihara	Tropezienne	12
52	0.2	Martin Reid	Peter Newell	New Zealand	12
53-54	0.18	Chih Mou Lin	Bao Shan Kuang	YBS	7
53-54	0.18	Yoshiyuki Nakamura	Keisuke Akama	Morimura	12
55	0.16	Masayuki Hayasaka	Toshiko Kaho	MASA	12
56	0.15	Huang Yan	Wang Nan	China Ladies	8
57-58	0.07	Sartaj Hans	Tony Nunn	SWAT Squad	12
57-58	0.07	Ehud Friedlander	Inon Liran	YBT	9
59	0.06	Lian Ruoyang	Gui Shengyue	Wuhan Dongfang BC	5

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
60-61	0.04	Yeh Chen	Zhang Yalan	YBT	4
60-61	0.04	Tadashi Teramoto	Kumiko Sasahira	SARA	6
62	0.03	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	TBA	12
63	0.02	Wang Yanhong	Xin Guofang	Beijing Trinergy	8
64	0.01	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Hiroyuki Noda	HIRATA	8
65-67	0	Namyeon Kim	Sungsuk Kang	YOYO5	5
65-67	0	Akihiko Yamada	Kyoko Ohno	Senior 2017	6
65-67	0	Hisami Kataoka	Junzo Kobayashi	NANIWADA	4
68-69	-0.04	Huo Shiyu	Chen Jun	China Dalian Aoxin	12
68-69	-0.04	Yuki Fukuyoshi	Megumi Takasaki	Fukuyoshi	4
70-71	-0.05	Takako Nakatani	Yumi Yanagida	Katsumata	8
70-71	-0.05	Toru Tamura	Mimako Ishizuka	KinKi	12
72	-0.06	Midori Ito	Ayako Shimazaki	Midori	12
73-76	-0.1	Paul Hackett	Brian Senior	Hackett	12
73-76	-0.1	Shen Yuxiong	Shao Zijian	Shanghai Financial	7
73-76	-0.1	Xue Xiaoli	Wang Fei	China Happy	6
73-76	-0.1	Jang Jungbae	Choi Jungjin	OK team	12
77	-0.12	Poon Hua	Kwon Haeryung	Kosing	12
78-80	-0.13	Lee Eun ja	Kim Sun young	Joy	6
78-80	-0.13	Jen Lee Chi	Kuo Paw Cheng	YBS	9
78-80	-0.13	Osami Kimura	Chisato Kiriya	Kimura?Yokohama	8
81	-0.14	Yuki Fukuyoshi	Hiroko Yanagisawa	Fukuyoshi	8
82	-0.15	Park Mungkee	Hwang lynrung	KLS	12
83	-0.16	Liu Jing	Liu Yinghao	Zhiyijia	8
84	-0.17	Atsushi Kikuchi	Takehiko Tada	Sakurai	12
85-87	-0.18	Takanori Katayama	Sanekata Sonoike	LAS FLORES	4
85-87	-0.18	Tadahiro Kikuchi	Ryoichi Yamada	Japan Youth	4
85-87	-0.18	Kazuo Takano	Kazuko Takahashi	skylark	12
88	-0.19	Chen Yunlong	Zhao Jie	China Open	6
89	-0.21	Deng Zhuodi	Yin Jiashen	Zhiyijia	8
90	-0.22	Kim Yoonkyung	Park Jungyoon	KLS	12
91	-0.23	Atsuko Katsumata	Kimiko Kamakari	Katsumata	8
92-94	-0.26	Zhang Jun	Zhu Minrong	China Happy	9
92-94	-0.26	Chung IISub	Sung Kunghae	OK team	12
92-94	-0.26	Yasuyo Iida	Yoko Nenohi	Katsumata	8
95-96	-0.28	Kotomi Asakoshi	Yuki Harada	LAS FLORES	8
95-96	-0.28	Masako Sakurai	Junko Tsubaki	HOSHI	8
97-98	-0.32	Kazuo Furuta	Hiroki Yokoi	Shanghai Financial	8
97-98	-0.32	Sonoko Namba	Chizuko Sugiura	KinKi	4
99-100	-0.35	Han Kowoon	Roh Seunjin	Bridge View	7
99-100	-0.35	Makiko Sato	Mariko Ueda	MASA	12
101	-0.36	Kenji Miyakuni	Ayako Miyakuni	kaTsube	12
102-104	-0.38	Tsuneo Sakurai	Kikuo Ito	Sakurai	8
102-104	-0.38	Yoko Fukuyama	Takashi Sumita	Air-TRFC	9
102-104	-0.38	Naoto Matsumoto	Sumiko Sugino	skylark	12
105-106	-0.4	Toshiro Nose	Masaru Naniwada	NANIWADA	8
105-106	-0.4	Yukiko Hoshi	Megumi Takasaka	HOSHI	9
107	-0.43	Mitsuko Sugino	Sae Ohashi	Key Bridge	6
108	-0.45	Kazuko Tachibana	Emi Sakata	Midori	12
109-110	-0.46	Youngmee Kim	Sungsuk Kang	YOYO5	5
109-110	-0.46	Mark LaForge	Chen Yuechen	Air-TRFC	4
111-112	-0.5	Kyoko Sengoku	Daisuke Sugimoto	Fukuyoshi	12
111-112	-0.5	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	LAS FLORES	8
113	-0.51	Yasuyoshi Toriumi	Aiko Banno	Kimura?Yokohama	8
114	-0.52	Jin Ke	Zhu Ping	China Relaxation	9
115	-0.54	Yumiko Kawakami	Masakatsu Sugino	River Side	8
116	-0.61	Shunsuke Morimura	Masayuki Ohashi	Morimura	12
117-118	-0.66	Siegfried Konig	Jimmi Wallis	Australia	12
117-118	-0.66	Hitoshi Tanabe	Eishi Imakiire	Japan Youth	6
119-120	-0.67	Katsumi Takahashi	Lee Bokhee	POSEIDON	12



Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
119-120	-0.67	Sonoko Namba	Mamiko Odaira	KinKi	8
121-122	-0.71	Whayoung Kim	Ingu Hwang	YOYO5	4
121-122	-0.71	Choi An hee	Hong Pil hae	Joy	12
123-124	-0.72	Lee Soony	Kwon sungwon	Hanmaum	12
123-124	-0.72	Noriko Yagi	Toshiharu Hirose	River Side	7
125-126	-0.76	Rimi Kawashima	Simon Chan	Rimi	12
125-126	-0.76	Junko Takeda	Kazuko Kawashima	Tropezienne	12
127-128	-0.82	Lee Sooik	Yang Sunjoo	Bridge View	7
127-128	-0.82	Osami Kimura	Setsuko Kimura	Kimura?Yokohama	4
129	-0.88	Cho Jung soon	Miyako Nakadoi	Key Bridge	10
130	-0.89	Sohn Jackie	Ahn Jaiyong	Gladiator	12
131	-0.95	Chang Eun kyung	Kim Sun young	Joy	6
132	-1	Namyeon Kim	Ingu Hwang	YOYO5	4
133	-1.08	Kim Kyungmi	Yea Eunjoo	Challenge	12
134	-1.13	Yoko Okubo	Masaharu Takatori	BACH	8
135	-1.28	Han Okhee	Lee ChoonHee	Hanmaum	12
136	-1.29	Kim Younhee	Koh Inkyung	Challenge	12
137	-1.3	Hong Jin hee	Oh Man jin	Key Bridge	8
138	-1.41	Mark LaForge	Toby Curtis	Air-TRFC	4
139	-1.82	Yang Sunjoo	Han Kwoon	Bridge View	4

## Images of Our Game



"Is that Kazuko?"



"So, how did you *really* get to dummy?"



"See, Rigal was wrong!"



"If they qualify with *that* score I'll eat your Sandokasa."



"Konichiwa!"



"Not again!"

# Match Nine: England/Norway vs New Zealand

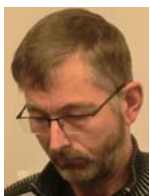
by Barry Rigal



Reid



Livgard



Aa



Newell



Bakhshi



Cornell



Bach



Erichsen

Before Round Nine started I was chatting to a player involved and we agreed that qualifying rated to be about 139. With both teams 10 VP off the pace a win here wasn't absolutely vital but the road would surely be uphill for the loser.

Newell-Reid play Moscito, a system which features a strongish club with transfer openings. Erichsen-Bakhshi play transfer responses to their possibly short club.

Bd: 1  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ Q8754  
♥ A  
♦ 106  
♣ 109862

West  
♠ A9  
♥ 32  
♦ AJ432  
♣ AKQ7

East  
♠ K63  
♥ K9874  
♦ 95  
♣ J43

South  
♠ J102  
♥ QJ1065  
♦ KQ87  
♣ 5

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
	2♦(1)	Pass	3♥
Dbl	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Multi

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both tables did well to get to 3NT, not because they didn't have the values but because the West hand isn't easy to express when doubling either major

suggests length in the other, plus West would not have been happy to force partner to bid either hearts or spades. Reid doubled the 3♥ response to Multi (I'm not sure what he would have done if his partner had bid 3♠ but the double was primarily takeout of hearts) and then got to bid 3NT at his next turn. That put North on lead with an easy low spade. Declarer ducked, won the second, crossed to the ♣J and led a diamond up, ducking the king. The defenders cleared spades, letting Reid finesse in diamonds and cash his winners. He endplayed South to lead hearts at trick 12 but with the ace in North, that player had the ♥A and a spade to cash.

The contract was reached the other way up at the other table. Bach led a top spade here too, and the only significant difference in the play was that declarer won the second spade to lead a *low* diamond from dummy to his nine and the queen. He too found the endplay and here, too, he was disappointed in the result. No swing.

Against 3NT quite a few Norths led the ♣10 and now declarer had the tempo to set up diamonds for nine tricks.

Bd: 2  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 109  
♥ A964  
♦ A8  
♣ 107654

West  
♠ QJ8  
♥ J10832  
♦ J104  
♣ AK

East  
♠ K76  
♥ K75  
♦ Q763  
♣ J98

South  
♠ A5432  
♥ Q  
♦ K952  
♣ Q32

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦(♥)	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

The N/S hands belong in clubs but it is not easy to get there, is it? Bach's 1♠ opener got his side to 1NT when he passed the non-forcing response (had he rebid 2♦ he might have found 2♠ a playable spot). Against 1NT a low diamond lead went around to the ten and ace. Cornell ducked a club, dropping West's king, and back came a heart to the king, a heart to the ten and ace, and a second club, ducked to the ace. Bakhshi now led the ♠J, ducked all around, then shifted to the ♦J. Cornell won, cashed his club and cut loose with ace and a spade. In the ending he had to score one of his red nines for a sixth trick, but that was still one down.

Reid gave 3♥ the old college try but it wasn't quite good enough. The defenders led the ♠10, ducked to him, and he led a trump to the king and South's queen, both good and bad news. He played back a heart and the defenders won, then took first their spade ruff, then their diamond ruff. So they had three side-suit winners and three trump tricks for down two. It was 5-0 for England/Norway.

Both E/W pairs then did well to reach 4♥ from the stronger hand after a transfer opening in one case and a transfer response in the other. The defense had two clubs to cash and the ♠AQ, but the auction had protected the ♠K so with the ♣AK on lead, declarer could establish a discard for the slow spade loser (and the ♠A was onside anyway so the contract was not in jeopardy today). Next, on to something completely different (pause for loud explosion).

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 10532		
Vul: Both	♥ 974		
	♦ 10975		
	♣ 76		
West		East	
♠ AQJ64		♠ ---	
♥ 108		♥ KQJ65	
♦ 3		♦ QJ84	
♣ K9852		♣ J1043	
	South		
	♠ K987		
	♥ A32		
	♦ AK62		
	♣ AQ		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠(R)	Dbl
2♥(♣)	Pass	3♣	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠(♣)	Pass	3♣	All Pass

In the Closed Room Ashley Bach (whose father is here playing in the team of the same name) judged very well to stay silent throughout. 3♣ fetched a comfortable +130...but that wasn't nearly enough.

The 1♠ relay by Newell was consistent both with a decent hand and one with either weak or invitational values in clubs or hearts. The 2♥ response to this indicated heart tolerance and club length. Thus, 3♣ neither promised nor denied values; it just indicated the final contract. What was South to do now? Terje Aa judged that his opponents were stealing from him and paid an expensive price. He was given a second club trick at trick one, but when he cashed the two top diamonds and found the bad news he could now do no better than take his five top tricks. He was probably not much consoled by the thought that the defenders might have had 1400 on a heart lead. That made it 14-5 for New Zealand.

The Japanese Senior Open team may not have been delighted to concede -710 in 4♣x in one room but their teammates had them covered with 1400 from 3NTx (now *that's* protection!).

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 987642		
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ2		
	♦ 73		
	♣ KJ		
West		East	
♠ 53		♠ KJ	
♥ A10		♥ 73	
♦ KQJ65		♦ 10984	
♣ A642		♣ Q10985	
	South		
	♠ AQ10		
	♥ Q98654		
	♦ A2		
	♣ 73		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	Dbl	4♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♥	3♦	3♥
All Pass			

4♥ is a slightly lucky make here, but in 3♥ on a top diamond lead and club shift Bach finessed the jack on the basis that if he had done the wrong thing he might still recover with a favorable spade break. If he put up the king and it lost to the ace he was surely going to go down in 3♥.

In the other room the raise to 4♦ might have tempted their opponents to do more on a different day. But the third-seat opening persuaded North not to come again—if he needed persuading, that is. 4♦ lost the obvious five tricks and New Zealand had 1 imp for their adventures. They led 15-5 now.

How many pairs do you reckon would bid and make 4♥ here? A grand total of two: Sun Shaolin and Kang Meng of Beijing Trinergy and Xi Yuiheng and Yukiko Hoshi of Hoshi.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ 10954
Vul: E/W	♥ 1092
	♦ J9
	♣ A852

West
♠ Q7
♥ 8653
♦ AQ83
♣ QJ6

East
♠ AK6
♥ KQJ74
♦ 54
♣ K104

South
♠ J832
♥ A
♦ K10762
♣ 973

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
		1♣(13+)	1NT(1)
DbI(2)	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Erichsen received a diamond lead against 4♥ and took no chances, rising with the ace to play trumps and take ten tricks. Things were more exciting in the other room, where on a slightly different layout N/S

might have ended up in 3♠x. After a top heart lead the defense might be able to win the ♦Q, draw three rounds of trumps, then lead hearts and come close to another sizeable penalty. Maybe declarer can get out for 800 by discarding clubs on the hearts. Anyway, that is all hypothetical. In 4♥ Newell received a club lead and now had time for the diamond finesse after drawing trumps; another 1 imp pick-up.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 96
Vul: Both	♥ 762
	♦ J10852
	♣ A102

West
♠ KJ832
♥ KQ9
♦ A4
♣ K54

East
♠ 105
♥ AJ1085
♦ Q3
♣ Q983

South
♠ AQ74
♥ 43
♦ K976
♣ J76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
			Pass
1♣(13+)	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT(♥)	Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both tables reached 4♥ and had Cornell led his diamond sequence declarer would have had some bad moments, though with both spade honors onside he should find a way home. But Cornell had heard his partner fail to double diamonds on two occasions so that lead had become less attractive than usual. The ♠10 lead went to the ace and Bach shifted to diamonds. Bakhshi rose with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, then finessed in spades and ruffed a spade. Now he could draw the last trump and cash two spade winners, losing two clubs at the end.

Newell received a diamond lead around to his queen and when he led a spade Aa rose with the ace and shifted to the ♣J. Newell won this in hand and drew trumps, then repeated the spade finesse and set up the suit, using the ♦A as entry, and ended up with 11

tricks for another imp, to lead 17-5. My fellow bulletin editor (Mr C is ever the cricket enthusiast) remarked "We'll get them in singles, Wilfred."

A couple of tables played 3NT and regretted it but nine tables went down in 4♥ on the lead of the ♦J, perhaps by mishandling the spades.

The New Zealand team continued their tactics on the next deal, where an active defense by Livgard took a finesse for declarer that he might have been unwilling or unable to take on his own. Another overtrick imp, making it 18-5 for New Zealand.

Bd: 9                    North  
 Dir: North            ♠ AJ65  
 Vul: E/W              ♥ 105  
                               ♦ Q10  
                               ♣ 107432

West  
 ♠ Q1092  
 ♥ AJ864  
 ♦ A764  
 ♣ ---

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ K732  
 ♦ KJ982  
 ♣ QJ86

South  
 ♠ K8743  
 ♥ Q9  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ AK95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
2♥	4♠	1♦(♥)	1♠
5♥	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
2♥	2NT(♠)	3♠	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbf	All Pass		

Both N/S pairs reached 4♠ but Bakhshi was happy to defend, while Reid, who knew about the spade void opposite, was not. Against 4♠x Erichsen saw Bakhshi lead the ♥A and ♥8 to him. He shifted to a low club and now declarer was unprepared to finesse. When he went up with the ace Bakhshi ruffed, played two more rounds of diamonds to his partner, and now a top club through meant 800. Nicely done, and worth 3 imps when 5♥ came home with 13 tricks after South (not unreasonably) went in with a top club prematurely and allowed declarer to establish a discard for a spade loser.

Hydes-Hackett bid this one to 6♥ when Jason opened 1♦ and raised Hydes' 2♥ response (after a

1NT major-minor overcall) to 4♥. Hydes simply bid slam now and took 12 tricks when both red suits behaved.

Choi Jungbin and Jang Jungbae were the only other pair to bid slam here. Two E/W pairs sold out to 2♠; at least they beat it a trick.

Bd: 10                    North  
 Dir: East                ♠ 75  
 Vul: Both                ♥ Q84  
                               ♦ KJ10653  
                               ♣ A4

West  
 ♠ AQ92  
 ♥ 10965  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ 1096

East  
 ♠ K64  
 ♥ K2  
 ♦ AQ42  
 ♣ J753

South  
 ♠ J1083  
 ♥ AJ73  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ KQ82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
		1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♦(♥)	2♦	1♣(2+)	Pass
		All Pass	

Against 1NT Aa might have shown the majors but in direct seat that is quite a stretch, vulnerable. In 1NT Newell received a friendly lead of the ♠J. He won the ace to pass the ♣10, won the spade continuation in hand and ducked a club to North. Back came a diamond so he finessed, finessed the spade, cashed the ♠Q pitching a diamond, then led a third club. South could win and exit in clubs but that was declarer's seventh trick.

Cornell played 2♦ as North on the lead of the ♥K. He won and cashed out the clubs, then played trumps losing one spade, two diamonds and eventually a heart ruff for +110. Those 5 imps made it 23-8.

With a hand like North's there is only one thing more fun than playing a diamond contract: defending a diamond contract—doubled. There are very few times that one might be tempted to exclaim "woo-hoo!" at the table but if (as Sabine Auken did) I passed a takeout double of 1♦ from East and heard LHO pass it out and saw partner lead the ♦8 and saw the ♦97 come down in dummy, I might not be able to resist temptation. Declarer had two trump tricks and two spade winners, but that was it; 800 in the out-

column.

That wouldn't have been a matchpoint top though. Loo Choon Chou and Yang Chiahong defended 1♦x for 1100 after a spade lead.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 1065  
 ♥ 1085  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ AQ1052

West  
 ♠ Q8  
 ♥ AK94  
 ♦ K9872  
 ♣ K7

East  
 ♠ A9432  
 ♥ J73  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 9863

South  
 ♠ KJ7  
 ♥ Q62  
 ♦ AQ1065  
 ♣ J4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
			1♦

Pass	1NT	All Pass
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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
			1♦

1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

The defense to 2♠ saw Bach win his partner's ♦J lead with the ace to shift to clubs. The ♣J was covered so Cornell took two high clubs and led a low club, ruffed with the seven and overruffed with the eight. Bakhshi cashed the ♦K to pitch the club loser, then played two more rounds of spades, ruffed the high diamond in dummy, and exited in spades to North, who in turn had to exit with a club. Bakhshi ruffed in dummy, simultaneously squeezing South in the red suits as he did; +110.

Meanwhile, 1NT saw a low spade lead to Reid's queen. Back came a spade and declarer concealed the two, so Newell let the jack win in dummy. The ♣J was covered all around so declarer cashed three rounds of the suit, setting up East's nine as he pitched a heart from dummy, then ran the ♦J, which held, followed by a diamond to the ace and a third diamond to East's king. Because of the heart discard from dummy (as opposed to a spade, say) the defenders now had the rest. But East had pitched a heart on the diamonds, too, and now the ♥10 was declarer's seventh trick; 5 imps to England/Norway, who trailed 23-13 with three deals to go.

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ Q97  
 ♥ 93  
 ♦ KQ83  
 ♣ Q754

West  
 ♠ A42  
 ♥ 1074  
 ♦ 10952  
 ♣ K82

East  
 ♠ K1065  
 ♥ A2  
 ♦ AJ76  
 ♣ J96

South  
 ♠ J83  
 ♥ KQJ865  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ A103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(♥/♠)
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Dbl	3♦	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
3♣(♦)	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Newell was prepared to risk doubling 2♥ for takeout, which seems rather sporting to me facing a passed partner (especially given the opening bid style) who hasn't shown signs of life at all. Livgard might well have expressed an opinion about 3♦ but wasn't given the chance. His decision to bid on over 3♥ might have turned a small minus into a big one, but neither defender really had a double. After a club lead the defenders won their black-suit tricks, then cashed the ♦A with a trump still to come. In the other room Erichsen's 1♦ opening normally delivered shape, hence Bakhshi's mixed raise. On a top heart lead, won in hand, declarer used the ♠K as an entry to pass the ♦10. Then he set up a spade winner as a home for the third club, but still had to lose one trick in each side suit and two trumps. Down one; 6 imps to New Zealand making it 29-13.

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ AQ  
 ♥ AK6  
 ♦ 10983  
 ♣ AK75

West  
 ♠ K32  
 ♥ 752  
 ♦ AQ542  
 ♣ Q3

East  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ Q10984  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ 10842

South  
 ♠ 1097654  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ J96

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Aa</i>
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both Easts led the ♣4 against 4♠. Were they influenced by partner's failure to double 3♥ or was there something deeper to the choice? They had surely both done well: the heart lead makes declarer's task easy, the club lead gives him a losing option he never had.

Cornell put in the nine and lived happily ever after (ruffing a heart to dummy to finesse in spades).

Livgard put up the jack, and when it was covered won the ace and played a low diamond towards the jack. The defense is easy if Newell ducks, but he put up the king, and Reid now overtook and played a second club. Livgard won and played a diamond to Reid who shifted to hearts. Now came the ♦9. Newell ruffed in with the ♠J, dummy pitching the club loser, and led a fourth club to let Newell score his ♠K for down one; 12 imps for New Zealand, winners by 41-13.

Four pairs beat 4♠ on a club lead and one declarer who stopped in 3♠ held himself to eight tricks.

A wise man once said — nothing.

# This Space For Rent

If you'd just play better we'd write more...

# Match Ten: TBA vs HIRATA

by Rich Colker



Yoshida



Geller



Ogihara



Maeda



Kubo



Noda



Shimizu



Miura

Bd: 17  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ Q7  
♥ ---  
♦ J72  
♣ AKJ108754

West  
♠ 1065  
♥ A973  
♦ Q1096  
♣ 63

East  
♠ J842  
♥ J84  
♦ AK5  
♣ Q92

South  
♠ AK93  
♥ KQ10652  
♦ 843  
♣ ---

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Geller	Maeda	Ogihara
	5♣	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubo	Noda	Miura	Shimizu
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

While Geller's auction in the Open Room may win the prize for simplicity, Noda's auction has the merit of making partner responsible for the failure in 5♣ (after all, Noda made minimum club bids at every opportunity and it was ultimately partner's fault for pushing them so high). But laying blame aside (yeah, right), 5♣ had no chance. Both Easts led the ♦A, continued with two more rounds of the suit, and still had a trump trick to come. A push at down two.

We could tell you which were the pair who let through 5♣ and 4♥ after leading diamonds but then

we would have to kill you. Or they would kill us. But we will let you know that one of the two guilty teams involved has led the tournament at one point.

Bd: 18  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ KQ1042  
♥ K6  
♦ K65  
♣ 982

West  
♠ AJ9  
♥ Q84  
♦ A87  
♣ QJ63

East  
♠ 8753  
♥ 52  
♦ J42  
♣ 10754

South  
♠ 6  
♥ AJ10973  
♦ Q1093  
♣ AK

Both N/S pairs reached 4♥ from the South side here and received the ♣Q lead, after which declarer led a spade towards dummy. Both Wests went in with the ace and declarer ultimately finished with ten tricks losing a trump, a spade and the ♦A. Still no score.

Bd: 19  
Dir: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ A3  
♥ J1065  
♦ J943  
♣ J52

West  
♠ J1087542  
♥ 3  
♦ A10  
♣ 986

East  
♠ Q9  
♥ AKQ  
♦ KQ82  
♣ Q743

South  
♠ K6  
♥ 98742  
♦ 765  
♣ AK10



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
			Pass
2♦(Multi)	Pass	4♥(P/C)	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

It appears from the auction in the Open Room that Yoshida thought Maeda's 4♥ was to play (many Multi players use the bid as pass-or-correct). Needless to say, 4♥ was not a great success. Ogihara cashed her top clubs at tricks one and two and then switched to a diamond. Maeda rose with the ace, led a diamond to the king, cashed the queen (ruffing the low diamond here might have worked better), and led the last diamond as Ogihara ruffed in to exit with a trump. Declarer eventually took three hearts, three diamonds and one club for down three, -300.

In the Closed Room only a club (or a trump) lead defeats 4♠ and when Noda led the ♥J, Kubo's three club losers went quickly away on two hearts and a top diamond. Kubo lost just two trump tricks for +650 and the first score of the match, 14-0 TBA.

There were about ten pairs who did find a spade lead and club shift or an initial club lead.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ K4
Vul: Both	♥ A854
	♦ 93
	♣ KJ652

West
♠ QJ75
♥ K762
♦ J8
♣ Q104

East
♠ A109
♥ 103
♦ KQ1065
♣ A98

South
♠ 8632
♥ QJ9
♦ A742
♣ 73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Against Yoshida's 1NT in the Open Room Geller led a low club to dummy's nine. Ogihara won the second diamond, switched accurately to the ♥Q, continued with the ♥J (K, A, ♠9), won the third heart with the nine and switched back to clubs. Declarer won in dummy, cashed his winners, but could not get back to hand to take the spade finesse and finished with eight tricks for +120.

The see-saw auction in the Closed Room ended in 3♣. Miura led the ♦K, ducked around, then switched to the unfortunate ♥10, which was not exactly the dagger to declarer's heart he was hoping for. Noda ducked a club to Miura who persisted with a second heart to dummy's jack and Noda continued with a trump to the ten, jack and ace. To compound the self-inflicted damage, Miura now cashed the ♠A when simply switching back to diamonds (or, less accurately, exiting with the third trump) would have garnered the defense at least one additional trick and ensured the defeat of the partscore. But when Miura continued with a second spade Noda was able to draw the remaining trumps and score up +110 for a 6-imp swing back to HIRATA, who trailed now 14-6.

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q3
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ76
	♦ 102
	♣ QJ972

West
♠ 6
♥ Q109542
♦ A643
♣ 108

East
♠ 842
♥ 83
♦ QJ9
♣ AK643

South
♠ AKJ10975
♥ A
♦ K875
♣ 5

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
	Pass	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Both auctions were short and sweet and both declarers received the ♥10 opening lead, but that's where the similarities ended. In the Open Room Ogihara won and led a club (using her trump entry to pitch her losing club on the ♥K might have worked better). Maeda won the king and switched to the ♦Q (note the similarity to the heart suit on the previous deal), then got out with a trump. Ogihara rose ace, played a second trump to the queen (Yoshida pitching a heart), pitched her fourth diamond (which would have been good anyhow given the 3-3 split) on

the ♠K, and lost two more diamond tricks for down one, -100.

In the Closed Room Shimizu played as suggested above, winning the heart, cashing two rounds of spades ending in dummy, pitching his club loser on the ♠K, and eventually losing just three diamonds for +620. That was 12 more imps to HIRATA, who took the lead at 18-14.

Was South unlucky? Just a little, since it seems that unless you find one of those relatively rare diamond positions where the ace is wrong but you only have three losers in the suit, the club play at trick two does not cost. About a third of the field went down in 4♠ here.

Bd: 22  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 732  
 ♥ K1053  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ KJ43

West  
 ♠ KJ108  
 ♥ 96  
 ♦ Q764  
 ♣ A109

East  
 ♠ 95  
 ♥ A74  
 ♦ J93  
 ♣ Q7652

South  
 ♠ AQ64  
 ♥ QJ82  
 ♦ AK108  
 ♣ 8

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
All Pass		Pass	3♥

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	4♣(spl)

This was either an unfortunate hand or a blessing, depending on which team you are rooting for. Geller-Ogihara stopped short of game and were no doubt pleased by the ♠K being offside and more than half of Geller's high cards being opposite Ogihara's shortness. The opening lead was a club to the ace followed by a heart shift, ducked around. Geller now started to crossruff: ♦AK, diamond ruff (Yoshida errantly rising with the queen), ♣K (pitching a spade), losing spade finesse. Yoshida now led the fourth diamond as Geller pitched his losing spade and Maeda ruffed. The trump ace was still out but Geller had nine tricks and scored up a useful +140.

Noda could not have been happy to hear Shimizu's splinter opposite his club holding but here he was in game. Miura led the ♠9 to the queen and king and back came a second spade to the ace. When Noda came off dummy with the club Kubo rose with the ace, cashed a high spade (diamond from Miura), and continued with a fourth spade, Noda ruffed high as Miura pitched a second diamond, then led a trump to the queen and tried to cash the ♦AK. Miura ruffed the second diamond, cashed the ♥A, and now declarer claimed down one, -100. That was 6 imps back to TBA, who retook the lead, 20-18.

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ AQ542  
 ♥ A10876  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ A7

West  
 ♠ 1076  
 ♥ Q542  
 ♦ A1086  
 ♣ 98

East  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ K3  
 ♦ J93  
 ♣ KQJ652

South  
 ♠ J93  
 ♥ J9  
 ♦ KQ752  
 ♣ 1043

Both tables bid to 4♠, received the ♣K lead, and now had to lose one trick in each suit for a push at -100. Still 20-18, TBA.

The field indeed played game here, it being very hard to identify just how much of the South hand is waste paper. But for Hackett, Jason and Alex Hydes doubled 4♠ and set it 500, putting the Hackett team back on their way to a qualifying position, after a disastrous previous day where they had lost all four matches.

Bd: 24  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ J108  
 ♥ AQ3  
 ♦ K962  
 ♣ K102

West  
 ♠ 76543  
 ♥ 7642  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ J86

East  
 ♠ AKQ2  
 ♥ K8  
 ♦ QJ853  
 ♣ AQ

South  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ J1095  
 ♦ A74  
 ♣ 97543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥
Pass	1NT	Dbl	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

What do you do when you hold a semi-balanced 21-count, partner is a passed hand, and RHO opens in your longest suit? Why you double, of course. Otherwise it could go all pass and there you'd sit with your teeth in your mouth. Such was the problem Maeda and Miura faced on this deal. Both doubled, heard LHO bid 1♥ (one of their doubletons), heard partner pass again, and then heard RHO rebid 1NT. What now? Maeda rolled out another red card and heard his partner bid 2♠. Should he act again? This time it was right to bid on as 2♠ made five for +200; and it was always there. Miura went low and paid the price (although not quite full fare) when he sold out to 2♦, down one, for +100. That was 3 imps to HIRATA, who retook the lead 21-20.

The datum here was +350 for E/W implying that most of the field did bid and make game.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ K2
Vul: E/W	♥ A9865
	♦ K95
	♣ Q107

West
♠ AQ107
♥ J102
♦ 743
♣ 652

East
♠ 53
♥ 743
♦ 10862
♣ AKJ4

South
♠ J9864
♥ KQ
♦ AQJ
♣ 983

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Declarer has nine tricks available; the problem is getting them. With hearts 3-3 and the ♦K for a hand entry, five hearts and three diamonds are easy. The

problem is that he needs help for the ninth trick: either the ♣J and ♠A onside (otherwise West gets in with ♠A and a club shift rates to kill the contract) or the ♣J onside and the top club and spade honors all offside. And he also has to guess which to play for. The ♠A onside is clearly the odds-on choice— unless he believes in post-hoc logic or has information to steer him in another direction. Maeda led the ♣K, got a discouraging signal from Yoshida, switched to the ♠5, and when declarer followed low Yoshida inserted ...the ♠7!? Geller won, unblocked hearts and cashed his nine winners in record time. A triumph at +400.

In the Closed Room Miura also led the ♣K, then switched to the ♥7. Noda won, cashed the other high heart, overtook the ♦J with the king, ran the remaining hearts (pitching spades from dummy), cashed dummy's two remaining diamonds, and was now at the crossroads. He knew East had the ♣AK from the opening lead so he could either play East for the ♠A and West for the ♣J and play on clubs or play West for both of those cards. Playing for the ♣J with West caters to both possibilities so that seems the clear choice. Noda led a spade toward the king and went down one when neither option would have worked. That was 10 imps back to TBA, who retook the lead (are you taking notes?) 30-21.

The field was split roughly 50-50 between those making game and those defeating it.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q75
Vul: Both	♥ 765
	♦ AQ63
	♣ Q76

West
♠ K9432
♥ A1093
♦ K942
♣ ---

East
♠ AJ86
♥ J4
♦ 107
♣ 109843

South
♠ 10
♥ KQ82
♦ J85
♣ AKJ52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	Rdbl	1♠	2♣
3♠	3NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	1NT	2♠	Dbl
3♠	Dbl	All Pass	

In the Open Room Geller-Ogihara believed Maeda's double of 3NT and practiced discretion as the better part of valor, the only problem being that 4♣ was no bed of roses either. Yoshida led the ♠2 to the jack and Maeda switched to the ♥J, K, A, 5. Yoshida switched back to spades. Ogihara ruffed and played the ♦5 to the queen, a second heart to the queen, and exited with a third heart to Yoshida's nine as Maeda pitched his remaining diamond. Yoshida promptly played a diamond, ducked in dummy as Maeda ruffed and got out with the ♠A. Ogihara ruffed, then ruffed her heart loser with the ♣Q, which promoted another trump trick for Maeda with trumps breaking as they did. Oh, well. You can't win them all. Down two, -200 for N/S.

There's not much one can say about Kubo's 3♠ bid other than maybe she thought 2♠x making wasn't worth enough—and she might have been right. Shimizu led his trump. Miura won the jack and switched to the ♥J (Q, A, 7) followed by the ♥10 to the king. Shimizu tried the ♦J to the king and ace but Noda couldn't read the position and when he returned the ♦3 declarer's ten held. Surprise! Miura ruffed a club, pitched a club on the ♥9, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond and claimed 11 tricks for +1130; 14 more imps to TBA, who now led 44-21.

See, that 3♠ bid worked like a charm. There was a +930 on the cards by Brock-Myers and one pair (Matsumoto-Sugino) who bid to 4♠. Their opponents had so much respect for them that they didn't double; quite right, too.

Bd: 27      North  
 Dir: South    ♠ A8  
 Vul: None    ♥ 108  
                   ♦ K82  
                   ♣ KQ8642

West  
 ♠ K75  
 ♥ A742  
 ♦ J1043  
 ♣ 109

East  
 ♠ QJ1042  
 ♥ KQ63  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ AJ

South  
 ♠ 963  
 ♥ J95  
 ♦ Q965  
 ♣ 753

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room Geller's 3♣ bid (we admire his notion of preemptive) struck gold when it used up enough room to deprive Yoshida-Maeda of a chance to communicate their strengths. Some might think Maeda's pass more than a bit pessimistic when a well-chosen seven-count (e.g., ♠K, ♥J, ♦K) made game a favorite—especially when LHO was a passed hand and RHO had preempted. As it turned out, Yoshida had just a bit more than that and 10 tricks were easy; +170.

The extra bidding room available at the other table allowed Kubo and Miura to find their heart game and the resulting +420 was worth yet another 6 imps to TBA, who led now by 19 at 50-21.

Game was bid almost universally here.

Bd: 28      North  
 Dir: West    ♠ 65  
 Vul: N/S    ♥ AQ65  
                   ♦ J942  
                   ♣ AQ8

West  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ 104  
 ♦ AK103  
 ♣ KJ9653

East  
 ♠ KJ109732  
 ♥ J973  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ 7

South  
 ♠ AQ8  
 ♥ K82  
 ♦ Q865  
 ♣ 1042

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Dbl	2♠	All Pass

All roads seem to have led to Rome here and at both tables South's lead was the ♦6. In the Open Room Maeda took the two top diamonds pitching his club and called for the ♥10. Geller flew ace and switched to a trump (10, Q, 4) and Ogihara returned a diamond. Maeda ruffed, drove out the ♠A, ruffed the

diamond return, drew the last trump, and when the ♡8 fell third claimed eight tricks; +110.

In the Closed Room a strange-looking play at trick three cost Miura the contract. The first two tricks went as at the other table but at trick three Miura called for a low heart and when Noda followed low inserted the seven, losing to the eight. Shimizu quickly cashed the ♠A, switched back to diamonds, and now Miura had to lose two trumps and four hearts for down one, -50; 4 imps back to HIRATA, trailing 50-25 now.

Would it surprise you to know that two N/S pairs made 4♥ (and one made 3NT)? Yes, me too.

Bd: 29  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North	♠ K1095
	♡ J1075
	◇ 7
	♣ A842

West  
 ♠ Q7  
 ♡ KQ8  
 ◇ AK986  
 ♣ Q103

East  
 ♠ J864  
 ♡ A643  
 ◇ Q1043  
 ♣ 7

South  
 ♠ A32  
 ♡ 92  
 ◇ J52  
 ♣ KJ965

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2◇	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2◇	All Pass		

It may strike some as a bit odd that Geller did not compete to 3♣ after Ogihara doubled 2♣ (Stayman) for the lead, Was this fear of flying with red pockets or did he know more about his partner's tendencies than the rest of us? In any case, -100 in 3♣ might have gained an imp vs +130 at the other table or it might have simply pushed E/W a level higher for the same result—or it might have been doubled for -200 and a 2-imp loss. We'll never know. Both tables scored up a routine +130. Still 50-25, TBA.

Last dance, last chance.

Bd: 30  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North	♠ AKJ2
	♡ 107
	◇ Q105
	♣ KJ64

West  
 ♠ Q109  
 ♡ KQ982  
 ◇ K96  
 ♣ 105

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♡ A643  
 ◇ AJ8742  
 ♣ 987

South  
 ♠ 876543  
 ♡ J5  
 ◇ 3  
 ♣ AQ32

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1◇	1♠
2◇	2♠	3◇	4♠

All Pass

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubo</i>	<i>Noda</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♡	Dbl	3◇(fit)	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

In the Open Room Yoshida and Maeda never located their heart fit and sold out to 4♠. When Maeda showed out on the first round of spades there was no drama to the play and Ogihara soon scored up +420.

In the Closed Room things got a great deal dicier as the heart fit was revealed early via the fit-jump and Kubo-Miura judged well to push to the five level. On the spade lead Kubo ruffed three spades in dummy (using a trump and the ◇K as entries), then punted in clubs. Shimizu flew with the ace and now could have deep-sixed the contract by returning a low club for a diamond ruff. Instead, he got out with a fourth round of spades so Kubo was able to ruff, draw trumps, and take the diamond finesse for +750. That was 15 more imps to TBA, who won 65-25 (18.41-1.59 VPs).

This was the wildest board of the day (or indeed of all three days of the event so far). A third of the field played and made spade games, often doubled. A third of the field was in a making red-suit game, often doubled. But there is no doubt who wins the prize for the highest scoring contract: Kuo Paw Cheng and Jen Lee Chi of Yeh Bros YBS made 6♡x on the lead of the ♣A. Again, we won't tell you who N/S were but if you listen closely you can still hear them arguing about the correct method of defensive signaling in this position.

Of course 5♥ was always cold—just not on declarer’s line of play. In fact, declarer could have made all 13 tricks on the spade lead. Ruff the spade, heart to hand, ruff a second spade, ♥A, diamond to the king, draw trumps, diamond finesse, claim with five hearts, two ruffs and six diamonds. Easy game, this bridge.

Have you ever listened to someone for a while and wondered...“who ties your shoelaces for you?”

## Foot in Mouth Disease: Part 1

In our description of the first-round qualifying match between SARA and Midori in Daily Bulletin 2 we ended our coverage of Board 14 with the statement: “SARA closed out the match 86-0 with three more undertricks when both tables overreached to a hopeless 3NT.” Wrong!

Yuki Fukuyoshi tracked us down and showed us the error of our ways. Here’s the deal in question:

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 98642		
Vul: None	♥ A97		
	♦ AK		
	♣ J32		
	West	East	
	♠ AJ3	♠ Q75	
	♥ QJ83	♥ 10652	
	♦ 953	♦ 876	
	♣ K75	♣ Q96	
	South		
	♠ K10		
	♥ K4		
	♦ QJ1042		
	♣ A1084		

Yuki’s opponents were also in 3NT and Yuki led the ♥3, as was common on the deal when defending the same contract. The play for nine (actually ten) tricks can be fairly straightforward or incredibly complex, depending on the cards played at trick one. Let’s look at a straight forward line in which declarer wins the opening lead in hand (ducking in both hands allows East to switch to a spade after which 3NT can be beaten with careful defense; if the ♥Q was led initially then ducking in both hands would be okay), crosses to dummy with a diamond and leads a club, finessing the eight if East follows low (or winning the ace if the jack is led and East covers). Assuming South wins the trick he returns to dummy with a diamond and plays another club, finessing as appropriate if East follow low. Declarer must be careful not to cut himself off from the long diamonds and fourth club. For example, if West withholds the ♣K till the third round of the suit after the ♣A has been dislodged South must be careful to retain an entry either with the ♥K or via an endplay against West (the ♥8 prevents East from gaining the lead in that suit). *Voila!* Ten (count them) tricks: Two hearts, five diamonds and three clubs.

What can we say? Humility is not really our thing.

### Registration For Weekend Events

Anyone planning to play in:

Yokohama IMP Pairs	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>
Yokohama Swiss Teams	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>
Yokohama Open Pairs	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening

# Match Eleven: SWAT Squad vs Soaring Shou

by Barry Rigal



Nunn



Tian



Hans



Dong



Auken



Welland



Li



Shi

As round 11 began on Vugraph we had the teams in sixth and eighth place facing off, with the knowledge that a loss might be enough to drop either of them out of contention; whereas a big win might seal their ticket to advance. Who would advance and who decline? The starter's gun sounded and Roy Welland charged out of the gate.

Bd: 1  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ J76  
 ♥ J1073  
 ♦ Q864  
 ♣ Q9

West  
 ♠ Q10832  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ AKJ9  
 ♣ J106

East  
 ♠ A954  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ 10752  
 ♣ K42

South  
 ♠ K  
 ♥ AQ9542  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ A8753

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♣
3♦	4♥	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Those of you who know Welland's potential for gambling would probably have him as the Nap selection in the category of "Least risk averse." His 4♥ opening facing a passed partner was entirely in character. This might have backfired badly had East

bid 4♠. Welland might have doubled that to show extras, but North might well have pulled to 5♥. As it was, the defenders led a top diamond and shifted to the ♠10. Welland ruffed the second diamond, led a club to the queen and king, and had now seen two honor tricks from East, enough to persuade him to play to drop the ♥K rather than risk a club ruff, trying to get to dummy to take the finesse. That play was only worth 5 imps for SWAT since, in the other room, Li had made exactly the same play. But it was a notice that there would be no punches pulled in the match.

About a third of the field was allowed to play 4♥ and make it; many pairs elevated themselves to the five level.

Bd: 2  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ J8732  
 ♥ 8643  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ J97

West  
 ♠ AK965  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ 832  
 ♣ K54

East  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ QJ972  
 ♦ Q754  
 ♣ 1086

South  
 ♠ Q4  
 ♥ 105  
 ♦ AKJ106  
 ♣ AQ32

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
		2♥(1)	3♦

All Pass  
 (1) Weak two-suiter

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Hans's two-suited action got his opponents into deep trouble but no one could up the ante with a red card. Nunn cashed the four major-suit winners and got out with a club. Declarer put in the nine and later misread the position to lose an extra trick; -300 (not that his result mattered at all given what happened in the other room). West might have worked out that his partner would pull the penalty double of 2♠ and settled for undoubled undertricks. As it was, 3♥ would have been a reasonable resting place but 3NT was not. Auken's ♣7 opening lead was hard to read. Welland won, shifted accurately to hearts, and left declarer to cash his five tricks and get out with a club. Auken won, took her spade winner to let South pitch a diamond, and now when she led a diamond through declarer scored trick 13 with the ♦Q. But that was still -800 and 15 imps, making it 20-0, SWAT.

Pride of place here goes to Hu-Li of China Dalian Aoxin who collected 1400 against 5♣x.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQ
Vul: E/W	♥ AK
	♦ 97632
	♣ AK92

West
♠ KJ3
♥ 108754
♦ 8
♣ Q1073

East
♠ 10984
♥ Q3
♦ AKJ5
♣ 865

South
♠ 7652
♥ J962
♦ Q104
♣ J4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
			Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
			Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

At both tables South stretched to use Stayman and found his side committed to 3NT without the values. In each room the play started with a high diamond and a low diamond to dummy's ten. Both declarers played a third diamond. Hans took his two chances to play clubs, leaving declarer with five tricks in the minors and the ability to throw Nunn in with the fourth club after two rounds of hearts had been played. That would have forced West to lead spades and allow the finesse. If the record is to be believed, declarer did just that, then misguessed the two-card ending and rose ♠A when the ♠J came through.

In the other room Shi played a club after winning trick three but then exited in hearts when on play at trick six. That broke up the tension of the ending and Auken simply gave up a club for her eighth trick and lost a spade at trick 13.

About a fifth of the field brought home 3NT here. Not surprisingly, a fair percentage of the field stopped in a partscore.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ K
Vul: Both	♥ Q10
	♦ Q9865
	♣ QJ1074

West
♠ AJ76
♥ 92
♦ K743
♣ AK3

East
♠ Q2
♥ A7643
♦ AJ102
♣ 52

South
♠ 1098543
♥ KJ85
♦ ---
♣ 986

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Norths led a club honor. Nunn ducked, won the second, and led a low spade towards dummy. When North won and shifted to a diamond Nunn took no chances. He went up with the ♦A, unblocked spades, then drove out the ♦Q for the ninth trick.

In the other room West won the first club to drive out the ♠K. Now he ducked a club and Auken shifted to



the ♡Q. Welland overtook to play a spade and declarer advanced the ♦J and gave up the trick to the ♦Q for nine tricks. No swing.

Declarer's decision to play spades before diamonds is surely right to remove the entry from the danger hand.

Next both E/W pairs stayed discreetly low with a big spade fit but no safety at the five level, then judged well again on a hand with some distractions.

Bd: 6 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ A96532  
 Vul: E/W ♡ K108  
 ♦ Q92  
 ♣ 3

West  
 ♠ 8  
 ♡ Q7653  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ KQJ642

East  
 ♠ KQJ10  
 ♡ J9  
 ♦ A8643  
 ♣ A9

South  
 ♠ 74  
 ♡ A42  
 ♦ J1075  
 ♣ 10875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♦(♡)	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Where E/W were using Forcing Stayman Dong had to give up in 3NT without having mentioned his best suit; but it was very much the right decision today. Nunn had an easier task passing 3NT and both declarers collected 660 when it proved too hard to cash out accurately.

Only a very few pairs got carried away to play 5♣. (We all know minor suits are for children.)

Next it was N/S's turn to exercise discretion—or maybe not...

I never argue. I just explain why I'm right.

Bd: 7 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ AKQ743  
 Vul: Both ♡ 65  
 ♦ AK74  
 ♣ A

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♡ KQ8742  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ KQ74

East  
 ♠ 102  
 ♡ J93  
 ♦ Q62  
 ♣ J9632

South  
 ♠ J985  
 ♡ A10  
 ♦ 10953  
 ♣ 1085

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
			Pass
1♡	Dbl	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
			Pass
3♡	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♡
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

I have a lot of sympathy with Auken for focusing solely on the heart control. Welland didn't have much, but there again he had already bid only 3♠ and he thought he had what partner wanted.

By contrast, I have no sympathy at all for Tian for bidding on over 4♠; if partner had a heart control and wouldn't show it over 4♣, what kind of values did he rate to have? In my book, when South bid only 2NT over 2♡ slam wouldn't be good unless he could cuebid 4♡ and bid on over 4♠.

Just four other pairs went down in slam. I guess we were really and truly at the "action" table.

Time for Soaring Shou to have a little bit of luck.

Don't confuse my PERSONALITY with my ATTITUDE...My PERSONALITY is who I am. My ATTITUDE depends on who you are!

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 64  
 ♥ A9853  
 ♦ J75  
 ♣ K94

West  
 ♠ 87  
 ♥ J1072  
 ♦ 10964  
 ♣ 865

East  
 ♠ A10532  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ KQ3  
 ♣ AJ1032

South  
 ♠ KQJ9  
 ♥ KQ64  
 ♦ A82  
 ♣ Q7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♦(♥)	3♣	3♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♦(♥)	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Tian doubtless devalued his ♣K but it still seems a little pessimistic to me to pass 3♥. An initial diamond lead would have saved the day but Nunn was never going to do that. After a club lead declarer could test trumps, then build a home from the spades for a diamond loser and wrap up 140.

Dong also led a club to the ten and queen. Welland played a top heart from hand and found the bad news. He played the ♠K next, requiring Shi to win and play a diamond, or the contract would come home with two diamonds going away after Welland finessed the ♠9. Shi was up to the task and Soaring Shou, if not soaring, were at least off the ground, trailing 20-5.

More pairs than you might expect (or hope) led and continued spades against 4♥ to let it through.

Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ Q106  
 ♥ QJ10  
 ♦ J65  
 ♣ 9763

West  
 ♠ 743  
 ♥ K873  
 ♦ K72  
 ♣ A42

East  
 ♠ A52  
 ♥ 95  
 ♦ AQ98  
 ♣ KJ108

South  
 ♠ KJ98  
 ♥ A642  
 ♦ 1043  
 ♣ Q5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Nunn was not interested in game facing a partner who might upgrade some 14-counts, whereas Dong was looking at a 13-15 notrump opener. Hans played 1NT on three rounds of spades. He won in hand and passed the ♣10, covered, then ran his minor-suit winners and was allowed to score the ♣8 for +150.

Shi received a heart lead. He ducked, and Auken accurately switched to spades. Shi won the second and advanced the ♣10, letting it run when Welland played low. When he led up to the ♣A next that was nine tricks, and suddenly it was 20-15 to SWAT.

On this deal only a handful of pairs bid to game and made it; more failed than succeeded.

And there was more to come.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ Q93  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ 854  
 ♣ K8742

West  
 ♠ 106542  
 ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ 107  
 ♣ QJ3

East  
 ♠ AKJ7  
 ♥ 1096543  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 109

South  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ J8  
 ♦ KQJ9632  
 ♣ A65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
		1♥	2♦
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		1♥	3♦
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

On the Open Room Nunn's 3♦ was a limit raise, so he thought he had enough for 5♥: good trumps, nothing else. Hans got a count of the diamonds and a feel for the club lie, which persuaded him to guess hearts for +650. Good but not enough as you will see.

In the Closed Room I'm sure the arguments for a club exist; after all, if it works in practice, how wrong could it be in theory? And certainly a diamond lead might be necessary. But I don't see how Welland's spade lead can be right against 6♥; it certainly wasn't today. Still, he knew dummy had no club control so declarer had to have the ♣K or shortness. Those 13imps (they were the only pair to bid a slam let alone make one) gave Soaring Shou a 28-20 lead.

Bd: 11 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 6  
 Vul: None ♥ KQ109652  
 ♦ AQ3  
 ♣ A4

West  
 ♠ A54  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ 1097652  
 ♣ Q5

East  
 ♠ J1032  
 ♥ A87  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ K10873

South  
 ♠ KQ987  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ KJ4  
 ♣ J962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
			Pass

Pass 4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
			1♠

Pass	1NT(1)	Pass	2♦(2)
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠(3)
Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(4)
Pass	4♣(5)	Pass	4♦(6)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Shape relays (4) 5-1-4-3  
 (2) Clubs (5) Optional keycard for hearts  
 (3) One heart (6) No thank you

Hans led his singleton diamond against 4♥. Declarer won in hand to play a spade to the king and ace, back came a middle diamond for the ruff and Hans put the ♣K on the table. North could have ducked to ensure one down but he won and led a trump, allowing Hans to lead a club to his partner for the second ruff.

When Auken won East's diamond lead with the queen to play a spade to the king and ace, Dong somewhat carelessly returned the ♦9. Declarer played a low diamond from each hand keeping the ace in hand and the king on the board. East saw partner's suit preference and obediently played a spade. Declarer won in dummy, pitched her club loser and played trumps from the top to bring home the game. That was 11imps, and on the surface of it, blame goes to West. But declarer's play of a spade at trick two was surely inconsistent with spade length. There's enough blame to go around, I'm sure.

And maybe the declarers should take some blame too since if they had guessed to play on hearts before spades they would have come home. I think the spade is the right play, but a third of the field did make 4♥ here.

Bd: 12 North  
 Dir: West ♠ J4  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 10743  
 ♦ AJ753  
 ♣ A4

West  
 ♠ AK10  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ K2  
 ♣ KJ652

East  
 ♠ 932  
 ♥ A96  
 ♦ 109864  
 ♣ Q8

South  
 ♠ Q8765  
 ♥ QJ8  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ 10973

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
2♣(1)	Pass	2♠(2)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1) 17+-19  
 2) Transfer to 2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♣(16+)	1♦	Dbf	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Nunn treated his hand as too good for a strong notrump and played 3NT on a diamond lead to the queen and his king. He returned the suit, South pitching a low spade. North carefully exited in hearts and when Nunn played clubs from the top (yes he might have led to the queen and ducked a club on the way back) he had only eight tricks.

Auken led hearts against 1NT and declarer won, drove out the ♣A, ducked the second heart, won the third and cleared clubs. When Welland shifted to his

♦Q to the king and ace Auken could cash her heart and diamond, but declarer had seven tricks. It was 32-31 now for Soaring Shou.

One E/W pair did record 400 here, but that was from defending 2♦.

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North	♠ Q8762	♥ K72	♦ A4	♣ Q102
West	♠ 10543	♥ 95	♦ J3	♣ AK987
East	♠ A	♥ Q10643	♦ Q10875	♣ 43
South	♠ KJ9	♥ AJ8	♦ K962	♣ J65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	1♣(2+)	1♥	3♥(1)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Transfer to 3NT

Auken's 1♣ opener includes balanced hands with any 5332 pattern. Welland wanted 3NT played by his partner, and though that allowed Shi to lead a diamond, he was never going to find the killing low club lead that Dong would surely have produced. When Auken won the diamond in hand to lead a low spade towards dummy, the sight of the ace was good news, indeed. The heart finesse was all declarer needed at worst, and when she could arrange to set up a club she had nine tricks without a finesse.

In the other room South could not envisage game being good facing a passed partner; you can understand why. Plus 170, but 10 imps to SWAT, up 41-32 now.

The datum was N/S +370; half the field bid and made game.

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North	♠ QJ	♥ ---	♦ K10653	♣ Q96432
West	♠ 98765	♥ 42	♦ QJ97	♣ AJ
East	♠ 10432	♥ AKQ10863	♦ A	♣ 7
South	♠ AK	♥ J975	♦ 842	♣ K1085

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Li</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	2NT	4♣	5♣
Dbf	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		3NT	All Pass

Shi's solid major preempt got him to a perfectly respectable spot, but as if karma was striking in revenge for Board 8, the hearts went 4-0 on him, which meant 3NT went down three instead of coming home in triumph. Since 5♣x had to go down one (declarer guessing diamonds sensibly enough, but making the initial play from dummy so that Nunn was not tempted to waste an honor) that was 6 imps to SWAT, winners by 47-32.

For the record, the 5♣ sacrifice would have paid dividends across the field, with more than half of the E/W pairs recording 420 or 590.



"What time does the train arrive?"

# Match Twelve: Hackett vs England/Norway

by Barry Rigal



Aa



P. Hackett



Senior



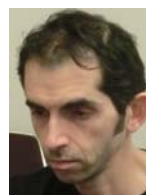
Livgard



Hydes



Erichsen



Bakhshi



J. Hackett

The showdown round of one of my favorite US sports chat shows starts with a quasi-serious announcer indicating "Two men enter, one man leaves." It was technically possible that either both or neither of the two teams playing here would advance; in practice a win for either by more than a handful ofimps would ensure they advanced and that their opponents would slink home with their tails between their legs.

Bd: 17      North  
 Dir: North    ♠ K  
 Vul: None    ♥ A96  
                  ♦ AKJ9  
                  ♣ K8742

West  
 ♠ AJ98643  
 ♥ KJ2  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ 9

East  
 ♠ 102  
 ♥ 74  
 ♦ 6542  
 ♣ AQJ53

South  
 ♠ Q75  
 ♥ Q10853  
 ♦ Q73  
 ♣ 106

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbf	Pass	2♥
2♠	4♥	All Pass	

The Closed Room auction has vanished into the ether, but both tables played 4♥ by South. Aa led the ♠A and shifted to a club. Hydes led a club on the go. Both sets of defenders scored three black winners and two trumps to go +100. Curiously, the only two pairs to make game as N/S did so against one another, in POSEIDON-Sakurai. But 3♠x was impossible to beat, as a quite a few N/S pairs discovered. I'm not sure we want to print the auction

that led to Kimura@Yokohama collecting 800 from 7♥x. It is hard enough to get to sleep with all that jet-lag, and the last thing we want is a horror story to keep us up.

Bd: 18      North  
 Dir: East    ♠ J854  
 Vul: N/S    ♥ KJ8  
                  ♦ K873  
                  ♣ 42

West  
 ♠ A97  
 ♥ AQ64  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ KQ86

East  
 ♠ KQ32  
 ♥ 73  
 ♦ QJ42  
 ♣ 973

South  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ 10952  
 ♦ 965  
 ♣ AJ105

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
		Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Aa won the diamond lead cheaply in hand, unblocked diamonds and played ace and another spade to dummy to lead a top diamond on which he discarded a heart. Paul won his ♦K and exited with the ♠J to dummy. Aa cashed the diamond winner, pitching another heart and now exited with the fourth

spade, pitching a club (Senior having also discarded hearts). Paul won to lead a club to Senior's ten and Aa's queen. In the four-card ending Aa was endplayed to lead a club or heart away from his tenaces, and whatever he did, he was sunk.

Hydes did something very similar on a diamond lead. He unblocked the  $\diamond A$ , crossed to a spade, and played a third diamond. He won the spade return, crossed to dummy in spades, cashed the fourth diamond, and led a club to the queen. But now he too was endplayed to open up hearts or clubs for the benefit of the defense, and whichever suit he led would set up extra winners for N/S.

Clearly with the sight of all four hands we can see that a simple line of using dummy's entries to play clubs towards his hand would have worked. But the defense had done well in not giving up a trick on lead at any point. Half the field brought home game here, half went down.

Bd: 19  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 $\spadesuit$  K1095  
 $\heartsuit$  5  
 $\diamond$  AKQ52  
 $\clubsuit$  KQ10

West  
 $\spadesuit$  432  
 $\heartsuit$  KJ62  
 $\diamond$  J  
 $\clubsuit$  AJ965

East  
 $\spadesuit$  AQ7  
 $\heartsuit$  Q94  
 $\diamond$  10976  
 $\clubsuit$  874

South  
 $\spadesuit$  J86  
 $\heartsuit$  A10873  
 $\diamond$  843  
 $\clubsuit$  32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
			2 $\heartsuit$

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhasi
			Pass
Pass	1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$
Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	

Brian Senior's weak-two bought the sort of dummy that some would say it deserved. The defenders collected three black-suit winners and three trump tricks and Paul Hackett apologized for not giving his partner enough.

In the other room, however, Bakhschi did not feel the same compulsion to open as did Senior. His reward was to put down his dummy in 1 $\spadesuit$  on a club lead.

Hydes took the ace and cleared trumps, leaving declarer with nine tricks off the top.

While two declarers managed to make 3NT here, the +140 from the Closed Room was better than just about all the other N/S results. England/Norway, 5-0.

Bd: 20  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 $\spadesuit$  K8762  
 $\heartsuit$  ---  
 $\diamond$  KQ853  
 $\clubsuit$  AQ2

West  
 $\spadesuit$  AQ1053  
 $\heartsuit$  J52  
 $\diamond$  1074  
 $\clubsuit$  83

East  
 $\spadesuit$  J9  
 $\heartsuit$  Q9876  
 $\diamond$  A6  
 $\clubsuit$  10765

South  
 $\spadesuit$  4  
 $\heartsuit$  AK1043  
 $\diamond$  J92  
 $\clubsuit$  KJ94

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhschi
Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 $\diamond$	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Wests led clubs. Both declarers won cheaply and cleared diamonds. Bakhschi found a way to an eleventh trick when Jason set up the  $\spadesuit K$  for him. Senior settled for 630; 6-0 now, England/Norway.

Bd: 21  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 $\spadesuit$  104  
 $\heartsuit$  AK6  
 $\diamond$  10864  
 $\clubsuit$  K742

West  
 $\spadesuit$  8765  
 $\heartsuit$  J985  
 $\diamond$  KQ5  
 $\clubsuit$  98

East  
 $\spadesuit$  K9  
 $\heartsuit$  10732  
 $\diamond$  AJ3  
 $\clubsuit$  AQJ3

South  
 $\spadesuit$  AQJ32  
 $\heartsuit$  Q4  
 $\diamond$  972  
 $\clubsuit$  1065

Open and Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhschi
	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Fans of Paul Hackett will know that his greatest dislike is blowing a trick on opening lead against notrump. Not only is he king of the passive lead, he has encouraged his partners to do the same. Whether that was why Senior led a MUD diamond and not a spade I do not know. All one can say for sure is that the lead worked like a charm. The defenders pressed on with diamonds while declarer took club finesses and then gave up hearts. When Papa later got in with the third heart he had nothing sensible left to lead but spades, and the defenders could cash out seven winners. It was 6-4 now for England/Norway. The spade lead in the other room saw Jason take the first seven tricks in 1NT.

Senior's choice of opening lead was duplicated at just a handful of tables, and even when it was found few defenses managed to prevail. Perhaps North shifted to spades to set up a spade in dummy for declarer's seventh winner.

Bd: 22 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ AKJ8  
 Vul: E/W ♥ K6  
 ♦ QJ542  
 ♣ A8

West  
 ♠ 1063  
 ♥ A432  
 ♦ A96  
 ♣ Q74

East  
 ♠ 9742  
 ♥ Q108  
 ♦ 107  
 ♣ KJ32

South  
 ♠ Q5  
 ♥ J975  
 ♦ K83  
 ♣ 10965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣(♦)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The South hand is hard to evaluate when North shows real extras, but not enough to drive to game. Bakhshi went high, Senior low. Livgard led a spade, Jason an imaginative ♥Q (I like his choice but had declarer held the singleton ace or king it might have been hard to justify). Nothing mattered today; the

deal was all about overtricks. When Erichsen ended up with ten tricks to Paul's nine, England/Norway had 7 imps to lead 13-4.

The datum here was +290 for N/S. Five declarers did find a way to go down in 3NT, a couple of times when South was declarer on a club lead and a misguess in hearts.

Bd: 23 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ 8763  
 Vul: Both ♥ J632  
 ♦ 1096  
 ♣ 92

West  
 ♠ AQ5  
 ♥ A5  
 ♦ AK842  
 ♣ QJ6

East  
 ♠ KJ10942  
 ♥ 1074  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ K43

South  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ KQ98  
 ♦ J753  
 ♣ A10875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Senior</i>
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both tables started with a strong 2NT or the equivalent; both Easts made a slam try to show a single-suited spade hand. Aa rejected the try, Hydes accepted it. The 4-0 break meant slam is in jeopardy on a heart lead, but because North has to follow to three diamonds it cannot be defeated. Hackett had 13 imps to lead 17-13.

The datum here was +810, suggesting less than a quarter of the field reached slam.

Bd: 24 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ 932  
 Vul: None ♥ 106542  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ AJ6

West  
 ♠ AK764  
 ♥ K97  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ KQ109

East  
 ♠ Q5  
 ♥ QJ3  
 ♦ A75  
 ♣ 87432

South  
 ♠ J108  
 ♥ A8  
 ♦ Q1098643  
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
Dbl	Rdbl	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
Dbl	Rdbl	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Senior must have been a little surprised to buy the contract as cheaply as he did. The defenders cashed out spades with a ruff and took a trick in each red suit for down one. Was that a good or a bad result? You'd be very happy until you saw the ♣AJ poised over the ♣KQ. That was enough to defeat 5♣ but as against that, on a slightly different layout with South 7-2-2-2, there might have been a heart ruff. Still, it was undeniably not unlucky for England/Norway to pick up 3 imps here. They would take them and move on, trailing 17-16.

Three pairs brought home 4♠ here, even after a diamond lead. The defenders cannot arrange to force declarer quite enough times, since North has two of his side's three entries and only a doubleton diamond.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q6
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ32
	♦ QJ1043
	♣ 104

West	East
♠ A	♠ K9842
♥ J106	♥ A4
♦ K2	♦ A97
♣ AKJ7532	♣ Q86

South
♠ J10753
♥ 9875
♦ 865
♣ 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦(KCB)	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Dbl	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Two sensible enough auctions, but England/Norway moved into the lead with 2 imps from finding the more lucrative strain. Aa could count twelve tricks but not thirteen, and in 7♣ the bad spade break would make you dependent on a diamond/heart squeeze which of course operates today. Even if spades split a heart lead might disrupt the entries to the East hand. A handful of pairs bid the grand slam; one pair (Kawashima-Chan for Rimi) brought home 7NT.

Five deals to go, and a qualifying spot for both teams was still very much in the balance.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ 65
Vul: Both	♥ J632
	♦ K10
	♣ K10432

West	East
♠ QJ73	♠ 84
♥ AK5	♥ Q984
♦ Q542	♦ AJ73
♣ A7	♣ J86

South
♠ AK1092
♥ 107
♦ 986
♣ Q95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

I'm sure Hydes had his reason for rejecting the invitation. But with a 4-4 pattern, decent controls, and decent values in the long suits (albeit no intermediates) I'd assume my hand was in the appropriate IMP-odds for bidding game. Both Norths led a club and both declarers put up the jack. When



it was covered, even 2NT looked very remote. Not to worry, the fall of the  $\diamond K$  in two rounds breathed new life into the contract. Hydes cashed out for +120.

Aa noted North's discard of a spade, then a club, on the run of the diamonds and decided to play him for four hearts. Nice card reading and 10 imps, making the lead 11 now.

Most tables played game; few made it and many of those who did got help on lead.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dlr: South  $\spadesuit$  103  
 Vul: None  $\heartsuit$  KQJ93  
 $\diamond$  A42  
 $\clubsuit$  1032

West East  
 $\spadesuit$  K2  $\spadesuit$  AQ98654  
 $\heartsuit$  642  $\heartsuit$  A  
 $\diamond$  Q853  $\diamond$  KJ10  
 $\clubsuit$  AQ65  $\clubsuit$  74

South  
 $\spadesuit$  J7  
 $\heartsuit$  10875  
 $\diamond$  976  
 $\clubsuit$  KJ98

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
1 $\clubsuit$	1 $\heartsuit$	2 $\heartsuit$ ( $\spadesuit$ )	3 $\heartsuit$
3 $\spadesuit$	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 $\heartsuit$	Pass	6 $\spadesuit$	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Dbl	3 $\heartsuit$
Dbl	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	Pass
5NT	Pass	6 $\diamond$	All Pass

It was all too easy when Aa opened the bidding. Livgard could show spades and a good hand, then use keycard and blast the slam. What could go wrong? After a heart lead, declarer did not need the club finesse.

Well, in the other room Hydes and Jason (who had previously experimented in this tournament with 3-0 and 5-0 trump fits) ran into another problem that even experienced partnerships might have. Hydes had shown minors at his second turn but he wanted to look for a 4-4 fit rather than risk a 5-2 or 6-2 spade fit. Jason thought he might be facing a more extreme pattern in the minors and offered diamonds. It was all perfectly logical—or ludicrous, depending on precisely where you were sitting.

The defenders led hearts, ducked the  $\diamond A$  twice, and now the hand fell to pieces. Hackett played spades, Bakhshi ruffed in on the third, Hackett overruffed, and Erichsen pitched a loser, forcing declarer to come back to hand with a heart ruff. Now Erichsen ruffed the next diamond to play hearts and leave declarer locked in the dummy for two down. That was 14 imps to England/Norway, up 25 imps with three deals to go.

The datum was 480 here, an indication of how hard the deal was to bid to slam if West passed initially.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dlr: West  $\spadesuit$  J62  
 Vul: N/S  $\heartsuit$  AK82  
 $\diamond$  102  
 $\clubsuit$  A862

West East  
 $\spadesuit$  Q875  $\spadesuit$  K9  
 $\heartsuit$  1096543  $\heartsuit$  QJ  
 $\diamond$  K6  $\diamond$  98753  
 $\clubsuit$  3  $\clubsuit$  K1094

South  
 $\spadesuit$  A1043  
 $\heartsuit$  7  
 $\diamond$  AQJ4  
 $\clubsuit$  QJ75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
Pass	1 $\clubsuit$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$ ( $\spadesuit$ )
Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 $\diamond$ (GF)
Pass	2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\clubsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Against Paul's 3NT Livgard led the  $\diamond 9$ , ducked to the 10. Declarer led a club to the queen and when it held sniffed the air and laid down the  $\diamond A$ . *Ay, caramba!* That was ten easy tricks. Had Aa won his  $\diamond K$  and shifted to hearts declarer's communications get very messy indeed but the favorable lie of the spades looks to allow him to make.

It was much harder for Bakhshi on an initial low heart lead. He ducked the first heart, won the second, then finessed in diamonds. Hydes won to clear hearts. Now he crossed to hand, took the club finesse, won the spade shift, and needed clubs to break. When they didn't, he had to concede down one. Unlucky, but it breathed new life into Hackett's chances. Two

boards to go, 13imps the margin.

Slightly more than half the field made game here.

Bd: 29                      North  
 Dlr: North                ♠ J108  
 Vul: Both                 ♥ KJ85  
                                ♦ Q987  
                                ♣ K8

West                                      East  
 ♠ 62                                      ♠ K9  
 ♥ A92                                    ♥ Q103  
 ♦ AK652                                ♦ 43  
 ♣ Q75                                    ♣ AJ9632

South  
 ♠ AQ7543  
 ♥ 764  
 ♦ J10  
 ♣ 104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
	Pass	Pass	2♦(1)
DbI	Rdbl	3NT	All Pass
(1) Multi			

In the Open Room Aa heard his partner pass initially (almost denying an 11-count), then balance to show clubs. But Aa had no spade stopper and no reason to expect his partner to have one as well as a club suit that might. So he passed and after a diamond lead Livgard played trumps for no losers and set up diamonds to pitch a spade, using the ace as an entry so he could not misguess hearts later. An unsatisfying +150.

In the other room over Bakhshi's multi 2♦ Hydes suggested a balanced 13-16 and Hackett had both a source of tricks and stoppers in the majors. That all added up to a bid of 3NT, so he suited the action to the word. After a spade lead, it all came down to a club view. Jason crossed to a diamond, advanced the ♣Q, covered all around, then guessed to lead out the ♣J and had +630 when the ten put in an appearance. 10imps to Hackett put them back in the qualifying pool and moved their opponents out. One deal to go, and the words of Henry Newbolt were ringing in our ears:

There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night  
 Ten to make and the match to win  
 A bumping pitch and a blinding light.  
 An hour to play and the last man in.

Bd: 30                      North  
 Dlr: East                 ♠ 986  
 Vul: None                ♥ AQ5  
                                ♦ Q7632  
                                ♣ J7

West                                      East  
 ♠ QJ4                                    ♠ A105  
 ♥ 32                                     ♥ KJ87  
 ♦ KJ4                                    ♦ A5  
 ♣ Q8642                                ♣ AK105

South  
 ♠ K732  
 ♥ 10964  
 ♦ 1098  
 ♣ 93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Paul	Livgard	Senior
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Erichsen	Jason	Bakhshi
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Easts showed a balanced 19-20 and both Wests drove to 3NT. Each table led hearts. Declarer won as cheaply as permitted, took a losing spade finesse and claimed 11 tricks a moment later. No swing and Hackett had sneaked through by the skin of his teeth (actually with about 3imps to spare).



"I could've had a V8!"

## 21<sup>st</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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 Quarter- & Semi-finals: two 16-board segments  
 NEC Cup Final: four 16-board segments



### Registration For Weekend Events

Anyone planning to play in:

Yokohama IMP Pairs	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>
Yokohama Swiss Teams	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>
Yokohama Open Pairs	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening