



YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 1

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Welcome to the 22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival

Well, it's been two years since the last Yokohama (formerly NEC) Bridge Festival and, as in the past, this year's festival features an impressive international field including many top players. Stage One of the 2019 Yokohama Cup, as usual, will consist of a 12-round, three-day (Tuesday thru Thursday) Swiss Teams qualifier with 14-board matches, imps converted to Victory Points using the WBF 14-Board scale (posted outside the playing area and on page 3 here). For Match One, the top 50 teams from the 53-team field have been paired at random with teams 51-53 playing in a three-way. Subsequent pairings will be based on current VP totals with the bottom three teams playing in a three-way. The top eight teams at the end of the third day's play will qualify for the KO phase. The quarter- and semi-finals will consist of 32-board matches, while the final will be contested over 64 boards. On Friday, February 22, the Yokohama IMP Pairs will be held, followed on Saturday, February 23, by the Yokohama Swiss Teams and on Sunday, February 24, by the Yokohama Open Pairs. (Note: the Convention Regulations for pair games may be found in your bag and here on page 7.) Once again the results of matches in the Yokohama Cup will be uploaded to the JCBL web site (see below) on a real-time basis. As last year, our convention center *Zashiki-warashi* will be on the job overseeing the updating.

The Daily Bulletin Office/Secretariat and the Chief Director

As always, we need your help to keep everyone informed of the happenings at this tournament. Please report anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens in your matches (bridge or otherwise) to the **Daily Bulletin Office, a.k.a. The Secretariat** (Conference Center, Room 411). If we're not in, leave a note in front of either of our computers (they're the two PCs on the right end of the table at the rear). The **Secretariat** opens each day 30 minutes before starting time. You can phone the Secretariat at 228-6400 via house phone from the hotel or from the Yokohama City area, at 045-228-6400 from outside Yokohama, or at +81 45 228-6400 from overseas. The editors may be contacted via e-mail (rcolker@gmail.com; barryrigal@mindspring.com). If you're trying to reach someone you can't find here at the festival, you may leave a message with us and we'll do our best to get it to them. **Chief Tournament Director** at the **Yokohama Bridge Festival** is one of the best (and nicest) directors in bridge, ACBL stalwart **Matt Smith**, who has recently been chosen by the ACBL as Tournament Director of the year. (Congrats, Matt!) Co-Director of the Yokohama Cup is Akito Omassa.

PCs with Internet access are available for player use inside the Secretariat (Room 411), along the wall to the right.

Yokohama Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 22nd Yokohama Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<https://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/bf/22nd/tabid/1574/Default.aspx>

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

Yokohama Cup 2019: 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 teams from the top 50 teams, with the bottom three teams playing in a three-way. Subsequent round pairings will be based primarily on current VP totals.

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: Bridgmate 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

The 22nd Yokohama Cup Guest List

Konichi wa and welcome to the 22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival. As always, two featured matches from every session of the Yokohama Cup will be broadcast on Bridge Base Online, the world's leading Online Bridge site (hi Fred, Sheri, Uday, and all), with live broadcasts starting with the Round One matches PD Times (24) vs Shanghai Qiaoyou (25) and Japan Senior (38) vs Circle (12). All match results will be updated on the JCBL web site on a real-time basis. As in the past, we're confident that not just the favorites will be playing for the championship come Friday so if you start off poorly, keep your chin up, play with heart, and fight until you're taken to the Matt (hee, hee). As always, we're thrilled to see the many foreign teams here and extend our special welcome to those attending the festival for the first time as well as to those back for the first time...in a while. As always, it brings joy to our hearts to see so many friendly and familiar faces from around the bridge world. We're all family here.

The defenders from 2017 are Team Hackett (**Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, Diego Brenner**). This year Justin replaces brother Jason from the 2017 squad and a third pair, Mossop-Brenner, has been added. Mossop played on the England Senior Team and Swiss National Team last decade and Brenner, the lone non-Briton on the team (he's Brazilian), has played regularly on the Lavazza Team. The Hacketts (*père et fils*) have attended nearly every festival here since its inception and Senior has played here quite regularly. Hydes has been on the Hackett team for the past three festivals and Brenner played here for a four-year span from 2006 to 2009. That leaves David Mossop as the only "Yokohama" virgin on the team. Be gentle with him.

Team Israel (**Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy**) is back in its same incarnation as in 2017 when they finished second in the round-robin but fell 3 imps short in their quarter-final match against Ziyijia. Regular Yokohama attendees will remember the Israeli team's impressive series of Yokohama Cup titles in 2005, 2006 and 2008 with Michael as a member; Yaniv was a member of Israel's "in-between" (2007) Yokohama quarter-finalist team. Ilan and Assaf, both members of the Israeli National Team, are back for their second festival here. Shalom.

China Open (**Chen Yunlong, Zhuang Zejun, Shi Haojun, Ju Chuancheng, Chen Gang, Shi Zhengjun**, with **Gao Yang** and **Wang Xiaojing** as coaches) is composed primarily of members of the two Chinese national teams who played successfully in Orlando (with China 2 defeating the current Bermuda Bowl World Champions in the KOs). Chen Yunlong and Chen Gang are playing in the Yokohama Cup for the first time. Zhuang Zejun played here in 1998 (as did Shi Haojun), 2011 and 2012. Ju Chuancheng has played (or been a coach) here six times (1999, 2007, 2009-2012), as has Shi Zhengjun (1997, 2007, 2009-2012). *Huanying!*

The China Ladies (**Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, and npc Zou Kai**) are back. The first four members are all veterans here (Wang Wenfei's China Women's team won the event in 2009), made the World Pairs final in Orlando last year and were members of the 2017 Venice Cup Champion team in Lyon (winning the event in grand style when their opponents, down 100, conceded with one set to go). As for Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi and npc Zou Kai, this is their first Yokohama Cup. As we have warned here in the past, those who underestimate Chinese Ladies do so at their own risk.

Team INDIA (Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Keyzad Ankkesaria, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder) features a group of consistent, solid performers who as yet have failed to register that big win we all strive for. Could this be their breakthrough tournament? Time will tell. *Aapki saphalta ke liye shubhkaamnayein* (loosely translated: "good luck").

Team TPE-NK (**Jonky Chung, Jed Wang, Jimmy Chen, Chris Lin, Herstein Liu, Sophia Kuo**) from Chinese Taipei (if you're wondering about the NK, as we did, it stands for Num Kun, a local company) features Yokohama Bridge Festival veterans Jonky Chung, Herstein Liu and Sophia Kuo teamed up with newcomers Jed Wang, Jimmy Chen and Chris Lin. These are all experienced players (they played in the Yeh Cup) so to any who would take them lightly, you have been warned. Welcome, and good luck.

Team LEONG (**Eric Leong, Cecilia Rimstedt, Bauke Muller, Simon De Wijs**) features two pairs of first-timers at the Yokohama Bridge Festival, though none of them are new to top-level bridge. Leong-Rimstedt play regularly in Mixed events and pair games at U.S. Nationals while Muller-De Wijs retain their reputation as a top Dutch pair.

Team TBM (**YEH Chen, ZHANG Yalan, SHIH Juei-Yu, WANG Ping, Chen Dawei, SUN Ming**) looks to be mostly a reconstitution of the 2014 Yeh Bros Mixed team here, but with Chen Dawei substituting for the peripatetic Patrick Huang (who has defected to this year's PD Times team). Welcome back.

The remaining visiting teams appear to all be from Asian countries (China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc.) and include some familiar names...but many unfamiliar ones as well. That is not to say that these teams may be easily dismissed. Such teams have shown up in the KO phase so often in the past that at least one of them figures to make it this year as well. Who will it be? Tune in and we'll tell you...on Friday. (Not Jedi masters are we, grasshopper.) Meanwhile, good luck to all the visitors and a special welcome to all the newbies.

As in previous years, several Japanese teams feature players who have won or placed highly in past events here (SARA, for example, qualified for the KOs in both 2015 and 2017) and many of the players are frequent international competitors. Judging from past festivals, at least one "home" team rates to qualify for the KO phase. Which one? Again, tune in Friday, Same Bat Time, Same Bat Channel, and see. Good luck to all.

So welcome to the 2019 Yokohama Bridge Festival. May all of your bids be inspired, all of your plays be double-dummy, and your fiercest competitors finish below you in the standings. Good luck to all.

Yokohama Bridge Festival Smoking Policy

Yokohama Cup:

See the Smoking section of the CoC (page 2).

Other events:

Once a session has started, and until the player has finished all boards in the session, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, which may be announced at the option of the Director.

Smoking areas:

Smoking is only permitted in the smoking rooms located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.

Penalties:

Penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director.

Alerts Behind Screens

When Alerting behind screens it is expected, given the language differences here, that players **write down** both the question and the answer. Players failing to do so may well jeopardize their rights when it comes to a Director's ruling or to any appeal that may follow.



Team Rosters: 22nd Yokohama Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Hackett:	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, Diego Brenner
2	ISRAEL:	Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy
3	CHINA OPEN:	Chen Yunlong, Zhuang Zejun, Shi Haojun, Ju Chuancheng, Chen Gang, Shi Zhengjun, Gao Yang (npc), Wang Xiaojing (npc)
4	CHINA WOMEN:	Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, Zou Kai (npc)
5	INDIA:	Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Keyzad Ankkesaria, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder
6	TPE-NK:	Jonky Chung, Jed Wang, Jimmy Chen, Chris Lin, Herstein Liu, Sophia Kuo
7	LEONG:	Eric Leong, Cecilia Rimstedt, Bauke Muller, Simon De Wijs
8	MAX SPEED:	Cathy Lee, Zoe Li, Y C Lai, L H Chin
9	SLIME SQUAD:	Mick Yeung, Ben Lam, Li Ka Him, Jason Ho
10	Ace:	Kim Sun Young, Chang Eun Kyung, Lee Soohyung, Koh Inkyung
11	Golden Dear:	Wang Qian, Cao Yi, Dai Jianming, Jin Feng
12	Circle:	Charmian Koo, Baron Ng, Flora Wong, Percy Wong
13	MMC:	Yasuo Takeda, Subba Ravipudi, Daniel Takahashi, Kyungwon Yoo
14	Tiger:	Jaiyong Ahn, Jackie Sohn, Soenyong Min, Inchul Lee
15	YBM:	YEH Chen, ZHANG Yalan, SHIH Juei-Yu, WANG Ping, Chen Dawei, SUN Ming
16	Seoul:	Hyeyoung Kim, Hyemin Oh, Daehong Kim, Seungjin Roh, Seongseok Kang, Sooik Lee
17	S.K.:	Kim Namyoon, Kim Youngmee, Poon Hua, Lam Chengyen, Yang Jiahong
18	CECIL CHAN BRIDGE:	Cecil Chan, K.F. Tung, Leo Lau, Chris Wu
19	Voler:	Zhou Feiwei, Sun Shiyu, Hu Xiao, Yang Jinghui, Wu Zhonghua, Gong Jingyuan
20	Shanghai Yitong:	Shen Yuxiong, Miao Jianhua, Zhang Xianxun, Shao Zijian, Ran Jingrong, Bao Xiangdong
21	Soaring Shou:	Tian Wei, Li Zhenhe, Dong Chunhui, Shi Bin, Jin Ke, Zhu Ping
22	China Dalian Aoxin:	Huo Shiyu, Chen Jun, Li Xiaoyi, Hu Linlin, Kang Meng, Liu Yinghao
23	China Hongyu:	Zhu Huilin, Hu Yihong, He Xinmei, Chen Yuechen, Li Lianjiang
24	PD Times:	Fu Zhong, Nie Weiping, Dong Lidang, Liu Jing, Chen Ji, Patrick Huang, Li Jie (npc)
25	Shanghai Jingfan:	Lian Ruoyang, Jiang Lianqing, Gao Fei, Liu Jun, Li Guanghua, Cai Yang
26	C.K. Juniors:	Kwon Haeryung, Wu Liangkai, Zhu Chenyu, Ping Zhiqiang, You Minghao
27	YENOVA:	Zhang Jun, Zhang Xuejun, Sun Yanhui, Liu Sicheng, Hu Junjie, Chen Yichao, Li Yanhui (npc)
28	XYZ:	Liu Haitao, Zhao Yonghui, Zhang Zhiyu, Zhang Baiji, Zhong Eric Yi, Qiao Xuechen
29	LCG:	Zhou Junyu, Shu Dawei, Xu Jianbing, Chen Bing
30	Mistral:	WC Li, PeiHua Liu, Hoyee So, SooJa Kwon
31	Poker Bear:	Ming-Chien Liu, Kuan-Hsuan Chen, Kelvin Ng, Xing LiKun
32	BT Girls:	Yoon Miki, Kim Yoon Kyung, Im Hyun, Chang Mi Rey
33	DARKHORSE:	Ilsu CHUNG, Kyunghae SUNG, Jungyeon PARK, Sungae YANG
34	SG:	Edwin Lau, Kelvin Ong, Tan Wei Teck, Soh Siew Luie
35	LU DONG:	Lu Dong, Wang Yanhong, Zhang Wei, Xin Guofang, Zhang Yizho
36	Shanghai Qiaoyou:	Ying Xiaoying, Xi Mang, Xi Zhenwang, Zhang Wei, Jin Zhiyin, Zhen Yingchun
37	SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Masaaki Takayama, Takeshi Niekawa, Hiroki Yokoi, Shugo Tanaka
38	Japan Senior:	Kazuhiko Yamada, Akihiko Yamada, Kyoko Ohno, Masayuki Ino
39	TBA:	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Terumi Kubo, Hiroaki Miura, Tadashi Yoshida
40	Takahashi:	Katsumi Takahashi, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Makiko Sato, Kyoko Shimamura
41	HOSA:	Toshihiro Ogata, Taeko Arita, Kazuo Furuta, Motomi Shirogane
42	Morimura:	Zhao Jinlong, Shunsuke Morimura, Tadashi Imakura, Xu Tong, Jiang Yi
43	Katsumata:	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Takako Nakatani, Kimiko Kamakari, Yumi Yanagida, Yoko Nenohi
44	Poseidon:	Ayako Shimazaki, Hiroya Abe, Kazuko Tachibana, Daimaru Senda
45	a-chanzu:	Kenji Miyakuni, Sadako Nakajima, Kikuo Tatai, Hiroko Ota, Ayako Miyakuni
46	LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Yoko Komuro, Shimako Yaji, Kotomi Asakoshi, Junko Nishimura, Yuki Harada
47	NANIWADA:	Toshiro Nose, Masaru Naniwada, Hisami Kataoka, Hideo Togawa, Kazuo Takano
48	HOSHI:	Masako Sakurai, Yukiko Hoshi, Junko Tsubaki, Megumi Takasaka
49	Wonderful Life:	Hiroko Tanaka, Sumiko Sugino, Yoji Mizuma, Naoto Matsumoto
50	Air-TRF:	Ayako Matsubara, Takashi Sumita, Yoko Fukuyama, Ryo Matsubara, Mark LaForge, Toby Curtis
51	P.S. Bridge:	Noriko Yagi, Xi Yuheng, Hu Wenhui, Masakatsu Sugino, Toshiharu Hirose
52	The Charlie's Angels:	Kaoru Sento, Machiko Nishiura, Kazuko Nakamura, Reiko Fukumaru, Yoshiko Shiota, Mio Manki
53	Japan Youth:	Yusaku Nishimura, Rai Tanaka, Sanekata Sonoike, Kenji Jindai, Song Yi Han, Yusuke Serikawa

1st-round match-ups

1 v 11; 2 v 19; 3 v 34; 4 v 32; 5 v 27; 6 v 18; 7 v 26; 8 v 28; 9 v 30; 13 v 49; 14 v 43; 17 v 10; 20 v 29; 21 v 36;
22 v 50; 23 v 46; 24 v 25; 33 v 16; 35 v 45; 37 v 47; 38 v 12; 39 v 14; 40 v 48; 41 v 31; 42 v 44; 51 v 52 v 53

**Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature PD Times (24) vs Shanghai Qiaoyou (25)
and Japan Senior (38) vs Circle (12)**

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

(An explanation for foreign players)

Unlike the Yokohama 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 Yokohama Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Yokohama Open Pairs) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Yokohama Open Pairs)

Opening Bids

- 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
- 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
 - at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
- Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
- Opening 3NT bid indicating:
 - any solid suit or
 - a broken minor suit.
- Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
- Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

Responses and Rebids

- 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
- 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
- Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
- 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3rd- or 4th-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to:
 - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

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

Competitive Bids

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

Carding

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

LIST D (Yokohama Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

The 2017 Yokohama Cup: England/USA vs Hackett

2017's top round-robin qualifier China Dalian Aoxin chose sixth-place finisher Hackett as their quarter-final opponent. Second-place Israel chose eighth-place Zhiyijia, third-place England/USA chose Wuhan Dongfang BC, leaving fourth-place New Zealand to play fifth-place SARA in the quarter-finals.

Hackett got off a 55-50 half-time lead over China Dailon Aoxin and played the second half to a draw (47-all) to take the first semi-final slot 102-97. Ziyijia took an 11-imp (54-43) lead over Israel at the half and held their second-half losses to just 8 (32-24) to take the second semi-final slot 78-75. England/USA took a 43-38 first-half lead over Wuhan Dongfang BC and extended it with a 41-33 second half to take the third semi-final slot 84-71. In the race for the fourth semi-final slot New Zealand trailed SARA 43-37 at the half but roared back to take the second half 41-5 to coast to victory 78-48.

The semi-finals featured England/USA vs Ziyijia and New Zealand vs Hackett. England/USA took a 30-imp (51-21) lead at the half and held off Ziyijia's low-scoring (23-18) second half comeback to advance to the final. Hackett built a commanding 45-imp first-half lead (59-14) over New Zealand and added another 8 imps (26-18) in the second half to capture the other spot in the Yokohama Cup final, 85-32.

The 2017 Yokohama Cup final would pit third-seed England/USA (Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Karen McCallum, Cenk Tuncok) against sixth-seed Hackett (Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes). The Hackett team featured three Yokohama Cup past champions and a finalist (Hydes in 2015); none of the England/USA players had ever played in the Yokohama/NEC Cup before. So would this be David versus Goliath or the triumph of the Titans?

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

We expected a high-scoring match due in part to the contrast between systems. England/USA played four-card majors and weak notrumps at one table and strong club and an aggressive opening style at the other; Hackett played old-fashioned four-card majors and strong notrumps at one table and five-card majors plus strong notrumps at the other. (We shall hereafter use only the Hacketts' first names.)

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First blood (in the auction) went to England/USA when Paul was forced to guess if his partner had a Yarborough or values when the ultra-weak notrump forced him to put up or shut up. He went high, and to make matters worse wrong-sided notrump so the spade lead came through the ace-queen.

Bd: 1	North	
Dlr: North	♠ K9	
Vul: None	♥ AQ6	
	♦ Q642	
	♣ 5432	
West	East	
♠ AQ5	♠ 432	
♥ K92	♥ 10753	
♦ AK1085	♦ 93	
♣ KQ	♣ AJ87	
	South	
	♠ J10876	
	♥ J84	
	♦ J7	
	♣ 1096	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
	1NT(11-13)	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

But appearances being deceptive, Tuncok's ♠J lead cleared up that position. Senior rose ace, played diamonds from the top, and when McCallum cashed the ♠K and exited in clubs declarer had ten tricks.

In the other room Jason led clubs and continued the suit when in with the ♦Q. Declarer ran clubs and took the spade finesse for an overtrick. Jason won, exited in spades and later scored two hearts; 1-0, Hackett.

Bd: 2	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 9754	
Vul: N/S	♥ 1064	
	♦ 10	
	♣ AJ1065	
West	East	
♠ J8	♠ AK3	
♥ Q7	♥ K853	
♦ AKQ853	♦ J42	
♣ 932	♣ Q87	
	South	
	♠ Q1062	
	♥ AJ92	
	♦ 976	
	♣ K4	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
		1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass

Myers received a low spade lead, put up the jack, and claimed nine tricks when it held. Senior, whose northern roots ingrain within him a philosophy of "A penny saved is a penny earned," cashed out the six diamonds and when both opponents discarded spades, he cashed the spades and exited with the ♠K. With nine tricks in the bag South had to give up a club or a heart in the ending for the overtrick, whatever he did; 2-0, Hackett.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ8		
Vul: E/W	♥ 95		
	♦ 654		
	♣ J9752		
West		East	
♠ Q95		♠ 63	
♥ 1072		♥ AKQ86	
♦ J872		♦ AK	
♣ A63		♣ Q1084	
	South		
	♠ A10742		
	♥ J43		
	♦ Q1093		
	♣ K		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
(1) lebensohl			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Again the active preempting style got in first, and again their opponents had enough to be able to overcome it. Senior heard Paul show a weak hand, over which his 3♥ bid showed real extras. We're not sure if Hackett contemplated looking for notrump, but he settled for the simple raise and left Senior in the driver's seat. Senior won the trump lead, ducked a spade, won the trump return, ducked a second spade, then won the diamond shift and drew the last trump (plus a fourth for luck). When McCallum erred,

pitching two clubs, Senior could play the club suit for no loser and had an unexpected overtrick.

In the other room Myers received a diamond lead, drew three rounds of trumps, then went after clubs. He made ten tricks but lost an imp for the third consecutive deal.

It is relatively unusual that down-grading a hand out of a strong notrump can lead to your reaching a game not reached in the other room, but there has to be a first time for everything.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A53		
Vul: Both	♥ Q43		
	♦ QJ83		
	♣ KQJ		
West		East	
♠ 764		♠ KQ10982	
♥ 952		♥ K8	
♦ K9765		♦ A104	
♣ 76		♣ A5	
	South		
	♠ J		
	♥ AJ1076		
	♦ 2		
	♣ 1098432		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	1NT(14-16)	2♦(♥/♠)	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	3♠	5♣
All Pass			

The auction in the Open Room seems reasonable enough. The evaluation of the South hand is dicey here, but what Tuncok did was at least reasonable, even if he might have considered bidding 4♣ at his second or third turn. As Bulletin Editors we have become experts at Monday morning quarter-backing, but we do realize that this could easily turn a plus into a minus (snide asides apart about there being bonuses for vulnerable games).

Curiously, in the other room it was Jason who pushed the boat out after (or perhaps because of) his initially pessimistic evaluation of the North hand (with which one of the editors is perfectly happy, while the other wouldn't consider downgrading "Because I play them so well").

Kidding aside, on the Kaplan-Rubens evaluator this hand comes in at under 13 points, so Jason has support from the real experts. But what mattered was his decision to bid 3♣ over 2♣. Whether this was because he expected to be facing short spades and all his cards to be working, or because he expected slightly more opposite, Hydes needed no further encouragement to drive to game. In a relatively unfamiliar partnership you have to expect there to be grey areas. On this occasion it led to game on a finesse, 4♥ being more exposed to a force or side-suit ruffs but probably no worse a spot. With the ♥K where it was expected to be, 5♣ came home with no problems and those 10 imps meant Hackett led 13-0.

Bd: 5
Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ KQJ62
♥ 10
♦ 754
♣ K984

West
♠ 84
♥ AJ9832
♦ 8
♣ QJ32

East
♠ 10973
♥ KQ7
♦ 1093
♣ 1076

South
♠ A5
♥ 654
♦ AKQJ62
♣ A5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠(1)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2NT(2)	Pass	3♣(1)
Pass	3♦(3)	Pass	3♥(1)
Dbl	3♠(4)	Pass	6♦

All Pass

(1) Shape and range relays

(2) Short hearts

(3) 5-1-3-4

(4) 2 controls

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
	Pass	Pass	2♣
3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Tuncok-McCallum play Symmetric Relay here, methods passed down from New Zealand via Australia to Alan Truscott and thence to many US experts. After McCallum's disciplined pass (not two words we ever thought we would put in the same sentence) Tuncok found his partner's shape and

range and the double of 3♥ let McCallum show her precise controls. South knew what to do. (Neither North nor East saw the double of 3♥ so McCallum actually showed three controls but that was an impossible response from Tuncok's perspective unless partner had the ♥A and only one black king when there still might not be 13 tricks available).

That was a nice auction in the Open Room but the Closed Room had to use judgment instead. After the 2♣ opener ran into competition Jason got to show his two-suiter, then sensibly judged his heart control enough to bid slam. Though there might be a case for 5NT at the final turn, an earlier slam disaster persuaded him that there was merit in simplicity. No swing; still 13-0 for Hackett.

Bd: 6
Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

North
♠ A10532
♥ 109764
♦ J2
♣ 4

West
♠ J9
♥ A52
♦ A63
♣ KJ652

East
♠ 64
♥ K83
♦ K10974
♣ 973

South
♠ KQ87
♥ QJ
♦ Q85
♣ AQ108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
		Pass	1♣(16+)
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

This was definitely a missed opportunity for Team Hackett. Jason intended to sign off at the two level if no fit came to light, but when he found a 5-4 fit he gambled he might as well be in game as partscore since everything would hinge on the location of the honors opposite. Right he was, since West had no attractive lead and a club seemed least dangerous. The fact that she was completely wrong doesn't make her choice a mistake.

Paul was in a similar position but here Senior should

perhaps have doubled 3♦, since it could hardly be wrong to tell partner not to lead clubs, the only likely alternative. Once he did not do so, Paul's choice was even more clearly indicated as a club. Both declarers pitched a diamond on the clubs at once, then drew trumps and gave up two hearts.

Bd: 7 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 972
 Vul: Both ♥ K2
 ♦ K10964
 ♣ AQ3

West
 ♠ J4
 ♥ QJ108
 ♦ 75
 ♣ KJ1072

East
 ♠ KQ
 ♥ A7653
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ 954

South
 ♠ A108653
 ♥ 94
 ♦ J83
 ♣ 86

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	Pass	2NT	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT(1)	Pass

(1) Five hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♣(♥+♣)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Comments on the previous board notwithstanding, it turned out that introducing K109xx isn't always a good idea. Here in the Open Room, after the fit-jump, South was never going to lead clubs and what could be more attractive lead than a diamond? Myers won cheaply in hand, ruffed a diamond to dummy to take the trump finesse, drew trumps, then gave up two clubs for his contract.

This was almost certainly going to be a game swing to England/USA, whatever Senior-Paul did: if West was declarer a spade lead and club shift would have set the game while Tuncok, as South, would surely have led clubs rather than diamonds had he been on lead. But when the partnership did not agree on whether 3NT showed five hearts, they ended in a silly spot, losing five spades and two clubs after the spade lead. Those 14 imps made it 14-13 for England/USA.

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠ J10752
 Vul: None ♥ K873
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A87

West
 ♠ AQ983
 ♥ AQ5
 ♦ ---
 ♣ Q10932

East
 ♠ K6
 ♥ 1096
 ♦ KQJ43
 ♣ KJ5

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ J42
 ♦ A1098652
 ♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Although it should not be too difficult for a combined 27-count with no real major-suit fit to play 3NT, Myers-Brock do deserve some credit for managing it so comfortably. Brock's 3♣ bid showed extras and Myers cannot have been comfortable to bid 3♥ without half a stopper (some might have preferred 3♠, which might have led to a final 4♠ contract). Anyway, 3NT by West was comfortable enough on a heart lead. Brock took the jack with her queen, drove out the ♣A, won the club return, and ran black-suit winners to force a lead away from the ♥K in the two-card ending.

Paul's 2♠ response endplayed Senior into a 3♣ bid that took his partner past 3NT at once. The question of whether to move on over 4♠ is truly a tricky one. Even if partner does not have a heart control would he have bid so differently with, e.g., ♠Kx ♥xx ♦Qxxxx ♣AKJx? Your editors don't think so; we both truly sympathize with West's 5♥ bid, which simply turned a playable game into a poor slam. If the ♥K were onside 6♣ would surely have chances. As it was, the heart lead let the defenders win the ♥K at trick one, then find the spade ruff for down two. Those 11 imps made it 25-13 for England/USA.

Bd: 9
Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 1098
♥ A8653
♦ 72
♣ KJ9

West
♠ AQ53
♥ Q4
♦ K864
♣ A63

East
♠ KJ76
♥ K
♦ AJ10953
♣ 42

South
♠ 42
♥ J10972
♦ Q
♣ Q10875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
	2♥	3♦	5♥
6♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
	Pass	1♦	2♥
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Hydes justified the judgment of all four players at his table by leading a club, holding Myers to 11 tricks. Yes, if Myers had been able to get spades into play his side might have reached 6♠ (a contract that cannot be defeated). But playing a natural system he had no real reason to bid 4♠ over 4♥, expecting his partner to double 4♥ and let him show his hand-type more accurately.

In the other room 27 imps swung on opening lead, and Tuncok had no reason to assume his opponents needed to build a discard from the suit his side had at least ten cards in. After the heart lead, Senior had 12 tricks and Hackett was back in front, 26-25.

Bd: 10
Dlr: East
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q1075
♥ A732
♦ Q2
♣ A75

West
♠ J8
♥ 86
♦ AK1073
♣ 10986

East
♠ A943
♥ KQ10
♦ J9854
♣ 3

South
♠ K62
♥ J954
♦ 6
♣ KQJ42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
		Pass	1♦(1+)
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
		Pass	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Dbl
Pass	3♦	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) GF or a weak 2♦ bid

In the Open Room the jump to 3♥ suggested a shapely hand but also an opening bid in high cards. Well, one out of two isn't bad. The defense to 4♥ saw Senior lead a low diamond and Paul shift to the ♠J. Senior took the ace, played back the suit, declarer ducked a trump, and Senior gave his partner the ruff with the short trumps for down two.

That looked like a decent position, given 5♦ had no chance on an early spade play, but which defender was supposed to make that play? Hydes led a top club and now maybe Jason could have overtaken and shifted to a spade (but that would not be a bright idea if declarer has the high spades and partner the ♥K). Jason followed with the smallest club and perhaps South now knew a second round wasn't standing up (North might have overtaken with a doubleton ace). But what if declarer had ♠AQ and partner a soft heart honor, in which case a spade play might give up a vulnerable undertrick or the contract for no reason? Hydes played a second club. Now declarer ruffed and used trump entries to build a heart discard for the slow spade loser; +750, and 11 imps back to England/USA, leading 36-26.

Bd: 11
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ A106
♥ A73
♦ K32
♣ KQ98

West
♠ K74
♥ KJ94
♦ 1076
♣ A104

East
♠ QJ
♥ Q652
♦ AJ854
♣ 52

South
♠ 98532
♥ 108
♦ Q9
♣ J763

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
1♥	1NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♥	Rdbl(1)
			All Pass

(1) transfer to 2♣; one-suiter

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	2♥(♠)

This board marked a first (one of a very few such deals) when it was opened by the Hackett team and not opened in the other room. It worked very well, too. Maybe that is the secret to bridge: get in there fastest with the leastest.

Paul's 1♥ opener bought the hand for his side in 2♥. He won the top club lead to drive out the ♠A. The defenders cashed their black winners and cut loose with ace and another trump. Hackett drew trump and passed the ♦6, claiming nine tricks when it lost to the nine. While he might have considered alternative diamond plays had he been in 3♥, this was simplest and as likely as anything to be right. Was there any reason for Tuncok to consider competing here? The opponents don't always have eight trumps on this auction; partner doesn't always supply three spades.

Meanwhile, 2♠ proved equally simple to make as declarer lost two trumps and one trick in each side suit. 6 imps for Hackett, down 32-36.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ KQ6
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ76
	♦ K7
	♣ 10653

West	East
♠ 843	♠ 2
♥ 104	♥ A982
♦ 982	♦ AQJ654
♣ AQJ42	♣ 98

South
♠ AJ10975
♥ K53
♦ 103
♣ K7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦	Dbl	3♦	3♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦	Dbl	4♦	All Pass

The E/W pairs here may have been the only two in the entire event ready and willing to raise diamonds with the West cards. (To be fair, the "short-clubbers" whose 1♦ is unbalanced might also.) Each East could then up the ante, Myers going all the way to four, Senior preferring the three-level.

In the Closed Room Hydes must have been tempted to take the bait and bid on to 4♠, but cooler heads prevailed and he led a trump against 4♦. Declarer won, took a series of minor-suit finesses, and emerged with +170. Another missed slam on the minority of high-cards.

In the other room the defense cashed diamonds, then clubs, against 4♠ and still had the ♥A to come for down one; 2 imps to England/USA, up 34-26.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ ---
Vul: Both	♥ A65
	♦ AK974
	♣ K8543

West	East
♠ 2	♠ KJ97
♥ KJ72	♥ Q10843
♦ Q108632	♦ J5
♣ 96	♣ AJ

South
♠ AQ1086543
♥ 9
♦ ---
♣ Q1072

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
	1♦	1♥	4♠
All Pass			

South's 4♠ bid looks normal enough but when dummy comes down you might wish you had taken a more delicate approach. That said, your action might stampede an impressionable West into doing something foolish, and if you can play clubs for one loser you only need spades not to be very unkind. Alas, for both Souths today was precisely that day. After a heart lead declarer pitched two clubs on the diamonds, then ruffed a heart to hand to try ace and another spade, followed by some muffled oaths as the bad break came to light. No swing, still 38-32 for England/USA..

Bd: 14
Dlr: East
Vul: None

North
♠ A5
♥ J43
♦ J2
♣ AJ9632

West
♠ Q102
♥ 652
♦ A6
♣ K10875

East
♠ K83
♥ AKQ97
♦ Q74
♣ Q4

South
♠ J9764
♥ 108
♦ K109853
♣ ---

Open Room

West Paul	North McCallum	East Senior 1NT	South Tuncok 2♣(1)
	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West Brock	North Jason	East Myers 1♥	South Hydes 2♥(♠+m)
3♥	All Pass		

Hydes led a diamond against 3♥, Tuncok a spade. Which East's chances in 3♥ would you prefer? Myers won the diamond lead cheaply in hand, unblocked diamonds, and led a club towards his hand (perhaps expecting it to be trumps, not clubs, that would break badly). Hydes ruffed, gave his partner a diamond ruff (Myers carelessly ruffing with the ♥2 and being overruffed with the ♥3) and now Jason cashed the ♠A to see a discouraging signal from his partner. He played ace and another club and now Myers had to negotiate the ♥J10. His choice of ruffing with the ♥9 seems wrong — was South really going to stay silent at his second turn with 6-6? Hydes overruffed with the ♥10 for down one.

Against Senior the defenders led two rounds of spades. Declarer won the second spade in hand, drew trumps, and advanced the ♣Q. McCallum took this and exited with the ♦J, leaving declarer with two diamond losers at the end. Still, that was +140 for Senior, trailing now by a single imp at 38-37.

Bd: 15
Dlr: South
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A75
♥ K1065
♦ Q86
♣ J53

West
♠ J43
♥ A972
♦ A1042
♣ 94

East
♠ K109
♥ Q8
♦ K9753
♣ A108

South
♠ Q862
♥ J43
♦ J
♣ KQ762

Open Room

West Paul	North McCallum	East Senior	South Tuncok
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	All Pass

(1) Puppet to 2♦, to play or invite game

Closed Room

West Brock	North Jason	East Myers	South Hydes
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

In the Open Room it was hard to balance against 2♦. Senior misguessed trumps at trick three when he ducked the top club opening lead and Tuncok shifted to the ♦J, but he still had +90 in the bank.

Meanwhile, against 1NT, Myers won the first club, guessed diamonds, but elected to run the suit and lead spades from hand rather than block the diamonds by winning the fourth in hand and risking the contract against an unfavorable lie of the other suits. No swing, still England/USA by 1 imp.

Bd: 16
Dlr: West
Vul: E/W

North
♠ K642
♥ 10
♦ 9853
♣ 10632

West
♠ A1093
♥ Q8632
♦ A4
♣ K5

East
♠ J87
♥ J9
♦ KQJ106
♣ AJ9

South
♠ Q5
♥ AK754
♦ 72
♣ Q874

Open Room

West Paul	North McCallum	East Senior	South Tuncok
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West Brock	North Jason	East Myers	South Hydes
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It should be noted that Paul Hackett was playing here with his arm in a sling (some undiscussed "dog injury" had led to a broken wrist). On this occasion his cards were in his rack but the ♠A refused to put in an appearance, hence the somewhat unorthodox

auction. The heart lead and club shift let him take nine tricks, but that lost 10 imps to the normal game from the other room. It was 48-37 to England/USA at the end of the first set.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

England/USA began the second quarter with a 9-imp lead. The action started early.

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ K10982
 Vul: None ♥ J74
 ♦ K
 ♣ J1083

West
 ♠ 765
 ♥ Q10986
 ♦ 9832
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ QJ43
 ♥ 32
 ♦ 76
 ♣ K9642

South
 ♠ A
 ♥ AK5
 ♦ AQJ1054
 ♣ AQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room the N/S auction may have revealed little about the N/S hands, except perhaps that McCallum only held only five spades (unless 3♠ showed a control there). Papa led the ♥10 against Tuncok's 6NT, ducked to the ace. Tuncok unblocked the ♠A, tabled the ♣Q, and when Senior produced the king claimed 12 tricks; +990. The play on a diamond lead might have been more interesting.

In the Closed Room the auction appears largely natural (at least after the artificial 2♣ opening and 2♦ waiting response) and Myers led a heart. Jason won the ace, unblocked the ♠A, crossed to his ♦K, pitched dummy's heart loser on the ♠K, led a club to the ace, and claimed 12 tricks; +920. That was 2 more imps to England/USA, leading now 50-37.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ J63
 Vul: N/S ♥ A64
 ♦ A873
 ♣ AJ6

West
 ♠ K1072
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ Q952
 ♣ 1087

East
 ♠ A98
 ♥ 10983
 ♦ K10
 ♣ KQ43

South
 ♠ Q54
 ♥ Q752
 ♦ J64
 ♣ 952

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
		1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Senior's redouble in the Open Room appears to be support. Paul's final pass (as opposed to a double) suggested he trusted McCallum more than Senior. Surprising, though he had been playing with Brian for long enough that he should probably have had a good feel for this by then.

Senior got off to the ♥10 lead (if they're good enough to bid...) and McCallum judged to cover with the queen (the sight of all 52 cards gives us license to affirm that ducking would have worked a bit better) and take the king with the ace. Next she led the ♦8 to the ten, ducked (covering might have worked better), and Senior continued with the ♦K, ducked again. Now Senior played a low heart to Papa's jack, who then led the ♦Q to drive out the ace. McCallum exited with a heart to Senior who cashed his tricks there and was "sort of" endplayed. He chose to cash the ♠A (the ♣K, likely ducked around, followed by a low spade to the king might have worked better) and exit with a second spade to Papa's king. Now the ♦9 and a future club trick brought the defense's booty to nine tricks; +300.

In the Closed Room Myers's 1NT met with far less acceptance than McCallum's 1NT in the other room, but we cannot say that N/S's attitude was wholly justified. Hydes led the ♥2 to the jack, Jason ducking to facilitate the entry situation in case Hydes had led from queen-nine-fourth. Myers came off dummy with a club to the queen, then exited with a heart to the

king and ace. Jason returned a heart to complete his trick-one plan but when declarer's nine was taken by Hydes's queen he knew the plan had not quite born fruit. Next Hydes got out with the ♣9 as Jason won the ace (establishing declarer's king and fourth club) and exited with the ♠J. In with the ♠K, Myers had a bunch of winners to cash but first tabled the ♦K. When Jason ducked, declarer cashed the ♥10 and ♣4 (on which Hydes pitched a spade) and exited with a diamond to endplay Jason, who was down to ♠J63 (opposite Hydes's ♠Q5 and ♦J). Jason slyly exited with the ♠J, which Myers allowed to ride around to dummy's king, and now when Jason followed low to the next spade from dummy Myers, playing Jason for an original holding that included the ♠QJ for his double, inserted the ♠9. Hydes was able to win the ♠Q and cash his ♦J to hold the blood-let on the hand; +180. That was 3 imps to Hackett (when it might have been 3 imps the other way), who trailed now 50-40. Nice damage control.

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

West
♠ KJ653
♥ KQ9864
♦ K10
♣ ---

East
♠ A987
♥ 102
♦ 85
♣ K9753

South
♠ Q10
♥ 753
♦ Q632
♣ J862

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
1♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
1♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	2NT	Dbl	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Dbl	All Pass

Volunteers were sought to check whether the two rooms were playing the same hands here. E/W were cold for 4♠ but inexplicably no one at either table bid the suit. (Fascinating, captain!) In the Open Room Senior competed to 3♥ (four was makeable with the ♥J being doubleton) and bought it there. McCallum, with a tough choice of leads, opted for the ♥A

followed by the jack. Papa won, drew the last trump, cashed the ♠K, then led a spade to the nine. In with the ♠Q Tuncok accurately switched to a diamond as the defense took their two tricks and Papa claimed +140.

In the Closed Room, in the "phantom" replay, the Jason-Hydes connection bid to 5♦ and got doubled for their efforts. (In their defense, their opponents had bid to the makeable 4♥, though it's a long way from "makeable" to "making.") Brock led the ♥K to the ace and with no really good options, Hydes elected to play ace and a diamond. Brock won, cashed the ♠K, led a spade to Myers's ace, and won the heart return for down three, -500. That was 8 imps back to England/USA to up their lead to 58-40.

Bd: 20
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ 2
♥ KQ9643
♦ A1072
♣ Q10

West
♠ Q7654
♥ 1082
♦ K3
♣ 853

East
♠ AKJ
♥ A7
♦ QJ954
♣ A64

South
♠ 10983
♥ J5
♦ 86
♣ KJ972

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	1♥	Dbl	1NT(♣)
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both E/W pairs bid briskly to 4♠ and it remained only for them to try to make it. In the Open Room, where Tuncok had shown clubs, McCallum got off to the good ♣Q lead. When this was ducked, Tuncok overtook with the king and switched to the ♥J, won by dummy's ace. Next Papa cashed one trump, then led a low diamond to the king and ace. McCallum switched to the ♥KQ, tapping dummy to promote a trump trick as Tuncok pitched his remaining diamond. Papa cashed dummy's remaining trump, getting the bad news, and tried to run the diamonds for club pitches. However, Tuncok ruffed in on the second round, led the ♣J to dummy's ace, and ruffed the next top diamond as Papa threw a club loser and

conceded down two, -200.

In the Closed Room, unaided by a club bid from Hydes, Jason led the ♥K to the ace and Brock came back with a diamond to the king and ace. Now Jason's ♥Q smothered Hydes's jack and established declarer's ten. So when a third heart was led Brock simply discarded a club from dummy and Hydes ruffed, but at the cost of a potentially promotable trump trick. Hydes got out with a club to dummy's ace but at this point declarer was able to draw the remaining trumps and pitch her club loser on the diamonds for a nice 13-imp pickup. England/USA by 31 at 71-40.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ K8
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ105
 ♦ 86
 ♣ 98762

West
 ♠ Q65
 ♥ J83
 ♦ KJ43
 ♣ KQ10

East
 ♠ J109432
 ♥ 76
 ♦ 107
 ♣ A54

South
 ♠ A7
 ♥ A942
 ♦ AQ952
 ♣ J3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
	Pass	2♠	Dbl
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
	Pass	2♦(♥/♠)	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In the Open Room McCallum-Tuncok went quietly — perhaps too quietly — and the Brits bought it for 3♠. Tuncok underled his ♥A to the ten and McCallum continued with the queen and a third heart as Senior ruffed in, led a spade to the queen and king, and claimed down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Hydes's 2NT bid worked better than Tuncok's double and allowed the "other" Brits to find their heart fit and bid game therein. Brock led a trump to dummy's king and Hydes led a club to the jack and queen. Brock, seeing that the clubs were splitting favorably, tried a diamond hoping partner could at least contribute the queen. But Hydes produced the queen, exited with a club to Myers, won the diamond return, drew trump, ruffed out the clubs,

and claimed 11 tricks. That was +650, for an impressive 12 imps, and cut the lead to 71-52.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q109853
 Vul: E/W ♥ 3
 ♦ AK95
 ♣ K7

West
 ♠ AJ
 ♥ KJ95
 ♦ 104
 ♣ Q10962

East
 ♠ 76
 ♥ 1086
 ♦ Q87632
 ♣ 85

South
 ♠ K42
 ♥ AQ742
 ♦ J
 ♣ AJ43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	2♥(♣/3-suiter)
Pass	2♠(R)	Pass	3♠(3=5=1=4)
Pass	4♦(end)	Pass	4NT(Max+5ctrl)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Both N/S pairs bid inexorably to 6♠, the auction in the Closed Room being natural, the one in the Open Room not so much. There was a problem with explanations in the Open Room so that the actual play at the table was cancelled and a result of 6♠ down one, -50, was assigned by the Director. For the record, the slam is cold on a diamond lead, cannot be made on two rounds of trumps, and on the likely club lead, the line followed in our other room, is as good (but unsuccessful) as any. Double-dummy fiends may be able to identify a winning line. Take your time, though.

In the Closed Room Myers led a club to dummy's ace and Jason set about ruffing diamonds by leading to the ace and ruffing the second round. Next came the ♥A, then a heart ruff and a second diamond ruff. But when Brock overruffed with the jack and cashed the ♠A the contract was down one for a push at -50. Still 71-52 for the hybrids.

Bd: 23
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AJ87532
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 1073
 ♣ A7

West
 ♠ KQ109
 ♥ J62
 ♦ K865
 ♣ J4

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ AK9875
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KQ863

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ Q103
 ♦ AQJ42
 ♣ 10952

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	3♠	4♥	All Pass

In the Open Room the defense against 4♥ began with a spade to the ace, a switch to the ♣A (Tuncok following with the ♣2) and a second club to the jack. Senior quickly cashed his ♥AK, ruffed a club to dummy, and discarded his losing diamond on the ♠Q for a score of +620 that probably felt as satisfying for him as it felt terrible for the opponents.

In the Closed Room the spade lead went to the ace and the ♠2 came back. Myers pitched his diamond as Hydes ruffed, but now a club to the ace and another spade through promoted a second trump trick for Hydes; down one, -100. That was 12 imps to Hackett, who drew ever closer at 71-64.

Bd: 24
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AQ54
 ♥ 104
 ♦ 9754
 ♣ J74

West
 ♠ 98763
 ♥ A965
 ♦ AQ3
 ♣ 3

East
 ♠ J2
 ♥ J8732
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ Q62

South
 ♠ K10
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ 862
 ♣ AK10985

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(Str)
1♠(1)	Pass	2♦(P/C)	3NT
All Pass			
(1) ♠+♥/♦+♣			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♣	Pass	2♥	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

The strong club auction in the Open Room suffered a modicum of interference but the friendly diamond split meant that 3NT could (as opposed to "would") always be made. Papa led the ♠9 to the jack and king and Tuncok cashed the ♣AK (from both the lead and the auction Papa was marked with the majors, which made this play rather suspect) and conceded a club to the queen. Senior accurately switched to the ♦K followed by the ♦J and Papa cashed out for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Brock-Myers bought the hand in 3♥ and on the ♥K lead Myers claimed nine tricks for +140 and a 3-imp pickup. Hybrids, 74-64.

Bd: 25
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 1053
 ♥ 872
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AJ1095

West
 ♠ Q2
 ♥ Q1063
 ♦ AJ95
 ♣ Q62

East
 ♠ KJ986
 ♥ AJ4
 ♦ K764
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ A74
 ♥ K95
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ K874

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	All Pass	2♦	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
2♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass	3♦	Pass

In the Open Room Senior received a heart lead against his 3♦. He won the jack, played a spade to the queen, a spade back to the king and ace, ruffed the second club, cashed the top two trumps and ran spades claiming 10 tricks; +130.

In the Closed Room the stakes were just a bit higher. Jason led the ♣J against 3NT and Hydes fell from

grace when he ducked. (If declarer had, presumably, the ♣AQ, ♦AJ and either major-suit queen the contract rated to be cold. The best hope must be to play for the actual holding.) Brock won, led a heart to the jack and king, got a club return and the defense cashed out for down two, -200, and 8 indelicate imps to Hackett, down just a deuce now at 74-72.

Bd: 26
Dlr: East
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q
♥ KJ9753
♦ KQ96
♣ J4

West
♠ AJ105
♥ AQ42
♦ 872
♣ 65

East
♠ 97
♥ 8
♦ 543
♣ KQ108732

South
♠ K86432
♥ 106
♦ AJ10
♣ A9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok

Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
------	----	------	----

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes

Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♠
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In the Open Room Tuncok ducked the opening club lead and was rewarded with a heart to the ace and a heart back, ruffed. He won the diamond shift cheaply in hand, led a spade to the ace, won the diamond return, cashed the ♠K, getting the bad news, and conceded down two, -200.

In the Closed Room once again the stakes were a bit higher. Jason won the ♣K lead with the ace, called for the ♥10, and let it ride when Brock followed low. Now he called for the ♠2 and again Brock followed low, allowing Jason to sneak through the ♠Q. Next came the ♦Q to the ace, a heart to the ace, and a second club to the queen. But Jason ruffed the club return and claimed 10 tricks for +620. A very useful 13 imps gave Hackett the lead, 85-74.

(see top of next column)

In the Open Room McCallum's 2♦ was invitational in an unspecified suit and Tuncok's 2♥ rejected a heart invite if that was her intent. Both rooms settled in 3♣ and lost the obvious four tricks for a push at +110. Still 85-74.

Bd: 27
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ 104
♥ 102
♦ 54
♣ AKJ9864

West
♠ K765
♥ A87
♦ Q106
♣ 753

East
♠ QJ932
♥ QJ4
♦ KJ97
♣ Q

South
♠ A8
♥ K9653
♦ A832
♣ 102

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok

Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣(2)	All Pass	2♥

(1) Shows an unspecified invitational hand
(2) Clubs, invitational

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes

Pass	1NT	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	All Pass	2♦

Next Hackett picked up a small partscore swing.

Bd: 28
Dlr: West
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 9
♥ Q653
♦ AQ1092
♣ Q95

West
♠ A864
♥ 842
♦ K74
♣ 874

East
♠ K107
♥ J1097
♦ J65
♣ AK6

South
♠ QJ532
♥ AK
♦ 83
♣ J1032

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok

Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes

Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room McCallum led the $\diamond 9$ (fourth best?) and Papa declined to play the jack, winning the king in hand and playing a heart to South's king. Moments later Papa conceded down one, -50.

In the Closed Room the low club lead went to the queen and king and Myers tabled the $\heartsuit 10$ to the king. Back came the $\clubsuit J$ to the ace and Myers exited with a third club. Hydes now cashed the $\heartsuit A$ and led a diamond to the queen. Jason cashed the $\diamond A$, on which Myers unblocked dummy's king, and led a third diamond. Myers won the jack and led a spade to the ace and a spade back toward his hand. Jason ruffed and cashed the $\heartsuit Q$ for down two, -100. That was 2 imps to Hackett, extending their lead to 87-74.

Bd: 29
Dlr: North
Vul: Both

North
 \spadesuit AK5
 \heartsuit 643
 \diamond K3
 \clubsuit QJ1097

West
 \spadesuit 10972
 \heartsuit 9752
 \diamond J97
 \clubsuit 84

East
 \spadesuit J863
 \heartsuit KQ10
 \diamond AQ1082
 \clubsuit K

South
 \spadesuit Q4
 \heartsuit AJ8
 \diamond 654
 \clubsuit A6532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
	1NT	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2 \diamond	Pass
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes

(auction and play unavailable)

Against McCallum's 3NT Senior led ace and another diamond to McCallum's king. When the $\clubsuit K$ showed up at trick two McCallum quickly claimed 10 tricks; +630. We could find no record of either the auction or the play in the Closed Room. What we do know is that Jason also declared 3NT and also made ten tricks for a push. Still 87-74 Hackett.

(see top of next column)

Both Souths received a club lead to the jack and ace, won the return, and guessed to play West for the $\heartsuit Q$ to score 12 tricks for a pair of 480s. No swing, still 87-74 Hackett.

Bd: 30
Dlr: East
Vul: None

North
 \spadesuit 3
 \heartsuit A10862
 \diamond K9852
 \clubsuit KJ

West
 \spadesuit J107
 \heartsuit Q9
 \diamond J76
 \clubsuit Q10983

East
 \spadesuit KQ65
 \heartsuit 743
 \diamond 43
 \clubsuit A742

South
 \spadesuit A9842
 \heartsuit KJ5
 \diamond AQ10
 \clubsuit 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
		Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \heartsuit

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2 \diamond (\heartsuit)	Pass	2 \heartsuit
Pass	3 \clubsuit (\diamond)	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	3 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass	

On the next deal Hackett profited on a judgment call.

Bd: 31
Dlr: South
Vul: N/S

North
 \spadesuit KQ108
 \heartsuit AKQ10642
 \diamond 105
 \clubsuit ---

West
 \spadesuit A9632
 \heartsuit 87
 \diamond KJ32
 \clubsuit 82

East
 \spadesuit J7
 \heartsuit J93
 \diamond AQ9874
 \clubsuit KJ

South
 \spadesuit 54
 \heartsuit 5
 \diamond 6
 \clubsuit AQ10976543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
			5 \clubsuit

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
			4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass	

In the Open Room Tuncok's 5♣ opening did not work out well for the Hybrids. McCallum passed (no matter, the five level was already too high) and declarer lost the obvious three tricks; -100.

In the Closed Room Hydes's more conservative 4♣ opening left just enough room for Jason to try 4♥. Myers's ♠J lead to Brock's ace was just the help Jason needed to claim ten tricks; +620. That contract would not have fared well if Brock had ducked at trick one. (Indeed, any lead except a club or the ♠7 leaves 4♥ unmakeable.) Whatever non-trump declarer leads at trick two allows the defense to play a trump and now dummy is dead and declarer must lose two diamonds and two spades. Ah, well. *C'est la vie!* That was another useful 12 imps to Hackett, who pulled further into the lead at 99-74.

Last board in the half.

Bd: 32 North
 Dir: West ♠ 42
 Vul: E/W ♥ J62
 ♦ AKQ3
 ♣ A1072

West
 ♠ J765
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 10765
 ♣ J853

East
 ♠ A10
 ♥ A108754
 ♦ J84
 ♣ 94

South
 ♠ KQ983
 ♥ KQ3
 ♦ 92
 ♣ KQ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Pass	1♦	2♥	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

We'd like to say the set ended with a bang but in full honesty we must disclose that the first half ended in a whimper. Both N/S pairs played 3NT and both took 11 tricks (after cashing winners the East hand was known to have 11 cards outside of clubs, so the third-round club finesse was marked) for a push. The session ended with Hackett winning it 62-26, to lead by 25 at 99-74. The teams retired to the locker room for halftime but returned renewed for the second half.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Hackett had roared into a 25-imp lead after two quarters after having come back (with the help of a score adjustment) from down 35 in the middle of quarter two. The momentum in the match appeared to have shifted, and the first deal of quarter three did nothing to change spectators' minds.

Bd: 33 North
 Dir: North ♠ 532
 Vul: None ♥ AJ95
 ♦ 4
 ♣ KQJ97

West
 ♠ AQJ107
 ♥ K64
 ♦ Q62
 ♣ 62

East
 ♠ K98
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ A109853
 ♣ A5

South
 ♠ 64
 ♥ 10832
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ 10843

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
	1♣	1♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
	1♣	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room Paul produced a forcing 2♠ and Senior raised to game. Easy-peasy. The defenders led clubs; declarer won and arranged his heart ruff for the tenth trick...not so fast. What if North had shifted to a diamond after winning the ♥A? Declarer must go up with the ace or suffer a ruff, after which he cannot both take a ruff and lead diamonds from dummy at the critical moment. The only way to succeed was to draw trumps ending in dummy and lead diamonds toward your hand, by no means an obvious line since the chosen line was proof against most diamond breaks. Brock won the ♥A at trick two, cashed the ♣Q, and shifted to...a trump. Declarer took the heart ruff, drew trumps, led a diamond to dummy, and claimed when the second diamond produced the king from South.

In 3NT, reached after Tuncok (who could have bid 1♠ non-forcing or 2♠ as a game force) found what he thought was the only way to get his diamond support and spade suit across. But this sequence was construed by McCallum as bidding stoppers for notrump. Maybe she should have raised spades

anyway. The club lead set the game immediately, as all McCallum could do was run spades, then try for a miracle in diamonds. She led a diamond to the ace and conceded the rest; 11 imps to Hackett.

Bd: 34
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AJ84
♥ Q63
♦ J92
♣ 732

West
♠ 6
♥ A105
♦ K7643
♣ KQJ4

East
♠ 10732
♥ 9842
♦ 105
♣ A109

South
♠ KQ95
♥ KJ7
♦ AQ8
♣ 865

Open Room

West Paul	North Brock	East Senior	South Myers
1♦	1♠	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West Tuncok	North Jason	East McCallum	South Hydes
2NT	Dbl	Pass	1NT
Rdbl	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Myers found an interesting rebid when instead of raising spades he decided to protect his diamond tenace. He was wrong in a sense, since spades plays for eight tricks and notrump made only seven. But he wasn't complaining since E/W might have bid on over a spade raise. Compare what happened in the other room where Tuncok wandered into his opponents' auction at the three level and came out smelling of roses. McCallum played 3♣ on repeated spade leads. She discarded hearts from dummy at tricks two and three, ruffed the fourth spade in dummy, then crossed to a club to play diamonds up. The defenders won, tapped dummy, but McCallum ruffed out the diamonds (unblocking the ♣A), used her small trump to cross to dummy to draw the remaining trumps, and scored up her contract. That was 5 imps to make it 79-110.

(see top of next column)

Both Easts led a diamond against the aggressively bid game. In the Open Room Paul won his ace and shifted to the ♥8, 3, 4, 5. Paul now shifted back to diamonds and was lucky the clubs could not take care of the heart losers.

Bd: 35
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ AQ109632
♥ Q63
♦ K2
♣ K

West
♠ 7
♥ KJ982
♦ AQ764
♣ 85

East
♠ K84
♥ A104
♦ J83
♣ J1072

South
♠ J5
♥ 75
♦ 1095
♣ AQ9643

Open Room

West Paul	North Brock	East Senior	South Myers
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass			4♠

Closed Room

West Tuncok	North Jason	East McCallum	South Hydes
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♣

Senior might have overtaken the heart to make sure nothing bad could happen but maybe he knew from his club holding that this was unlikely. In the Closed Room Tencok continued diamonds but that just looks wrong, too: give declarer a 7-2-2-2 missing the ♠Q and ♥A and the heart loser goes away. Both E/W pairs collected 50, and we moved on.

Bd: 36
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ 54
♥ J3
♦ Q982
♣ A9832

West
♠ Q3
♥ 765
♦ A107543
♣ J4

East
♠ 97
♥ AK10842
♦ 6
♣ K765

South
♠ AKJ10862
♥ Q9
♦ KJ
♣ Q10

Open Room

West Paul	North Brock	East Senior	South Myers
2♦	Pass	2♥	2♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West Tuncok	North Jason	East McCallum	South Hydes
2♦	Pass	2♥	2♠
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

This was a moral victory for England/USA, where the two Wests were given the same opportunity to compete and push their opponents around. One took it, one did not. Paul was sub-minimum for his opener with a wasted ♠Q. He sold out to 2♠, while Tuncok had plenty to spare for his opener and joined in the fun, pushing Hydes to 3♠. Both defenders cashed their hearts and took a ruff. Both Wests gave a ruff with a large diamond (Tuncok the seven, Paul the five). Both Easts played a trump and both Souths claimed. Against 3♠ one can certainly make the case for playing a club: it might cost an undertrick but it gives declarer a legitimate guess for the contract. Defending 2♠ one needs partner to have the ♠A or ♠K to play the club through in time.

Bd: 37
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J109852
 ♥ A6
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ 86

West
 ♠ 7643
 ♥ K10843
 ♦ 8
 ♣ KJ4

East
 ♠ AK
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ A1097
 ♣ 10753

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 972
 ♦ KJ643
 ♣ AQ92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
	2♦	Dbl	Rdbl.

2♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
	Pass	1♦(1+)	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dbl(Supp)	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

For what was neither the first nor the last time in this match, England/USA's preempting style got them in faster than the Hackett player in the same position. Did they succeed in stealing the contract? Quite the reverse this time, when Jason's delayed spade bid saw his partner compete for the partscore, leading to them playing in their 6-1 spade fit. The defenders led and continued hearts. Declarer took the ace and played trumps, letting McCallum in to shift to clubs. Hackett finessed and now was the moment of truth for Tuncok to collect his ruff (how else could he beat the hand?). He switched back to hearts. Declarer ruffed and played a trump to McCallum. Could declarer really have followed this line with a 6-2-2-3

shape? Wouldn't he have played diamonds before trumps? It turned out that it didn't matter which hand declarer had. A club play would lock declarer in dummy so he could only exit with either a diamond, finally allowing the ruff, or a club, forcing himself. After drawing trump the defenders would win the ♦A and have a club to cash. No. McCallum first cashed the ♦A and only then played a club and now declarer had the tempo to draw trumps after ruffing a club to hand to make his partscore.

Paul's 2♥ contract was somewhat at risk of black-suit ruffs; the defenders could take either spade or club ruffs, but not both. But maybe not. After a spade lead, Paul played a club to his hand and a trump up. Brock won her ace, took a club ruff, then gave her partner a spade ruff. But when a club came back declarer ruffed in hand and then cross-ruffed the rest for +140 and 6 more imps. Hackett led now, 116-79.

Bd: 38
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q87
 ♥ AJ1083
 ♦ 1087
 ♣ Q3

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ K2
 ♦ QJ93
 ♣ A87654

East
 ♠ KJ632
 ♥ Q9764
 ♦ A
 ♣ 102

South
 ♠ A1094
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K6542
 ♣ KJ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Senior led a heart (which feels right on an auction of this sort) to the king and ace, covered the ♠Q, and when declarer played another spade won, returned a low heart, and was extremely disappointed if not surprised with developments (Brian constitutionally feels that bad news is always just around the corner). Declarer now had two hearts and three spades, so went after clubs, and eventually Senior was forced to win the ♦A and concede a heart for -120.

That seemed a healthy enough result for N/S but of course McCallum opened the East cards, and that got Tuncok to an ugly 3♣ contract. Jason's diamond lead didn't seem especially effective. Declarer won in dummy, led a heart to the king and ace, guessed spades on the low spade back, took Hydes' ♣J shift with the ace, ruffed a diamond and cashed the ♠K for a diamond pitch. Everything was going swimmingly, but when declarer tried to cash a heart South ruffed in, took the ♦K, and gave his partner a ruff. The defenders had one trick in each plain suit and three trumps for down 200; 2 imps to Hackett.

Bd: 39
Dlr: South
Vul: Both

North
♠ AQ76
♥ 105
♦ Q65
♣ Q1095

West
♠ KJ54
♥ KQJ764
♦ 10
♣ 42

East
♠ 832
♥ A93
♦ 87
♣ KJ876

South
♠ 109
♥ 82
♦ AKJ9432
♣ A3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
			1♦
1♥	Dbl	2♥	3♦
3♥	4♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
			1♦
1♥	Dbl	2♥	3♥
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Both tables went a little beyond their comfort level to 4♦, Hydes did so voluntarily, Myers and Brock were pushed there. Digressing for a moment, in a strong notrump base, using good/bad 2NT by opener at his second turn allows him to distinguish real invitations from purely competitive hands. So South can bid 3♦ here but go through 2NT if the ♦2 were in spades.

Against 4♦ the defenders probably do best to go passive after two rounds of hearts. Tuncok shifted to clubs and declarer set up a club for his tenth trick, Paul underled his spades and declarer let it run, drew trumps, then played on spades for an overtrick.

Bd: 40
Dlr: West
Vul: None

North
♠ 10975
♥ 97
♦ 76
♣ AQ862

West
♠ 2
♥ AJ6532
♦ J82
♣ J104

East
♠ KQJ6
♥ KQ10
♦ K53
♣ K53

South
♠ A843
♥ 84
♦ AQ1094
♣ 97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
3♥	All Pass		

We've remarked on how differences in the teams' bidding philosophies threw up large variations in final contracts, though which team bid more and which bid less seems almost random. Take this deal, where Tuncok bid more but finished lower.

McCallum likely put down dummy expecting partner to go down in 3♥. Three rounds of diamonds and two aces later, she was not disappointed. But switch Tuncok's spade and diamond length and game is on.

Papa opened 2♥, and when asked for a feature couldn't quite identify one, but felt he had enough at this vulnerability to take a shot at game. Brock led a spade to the ace. When Myers shifted to the ♣9, covered all around, Brock could see she needed her partner to have the ♦A to have any chance to set the game. Did he have a club ruff coming or the ♦Q? She guessed right to set the game two tricks, for 2 imps, instead of letting it through. For her play to be wrong Paul would have needed to be 1-6-2-4 with the ♦Q; by no means impossible.

Bd: 41
Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

North
♠ K73
♥ QJ109
♦ J975
♣ Q7

West
♠ 10965
♥ K7
♦ AQ42
♣ 1092

East
♠ AQJ8
♥ A42
♦ K10
♣ A854

South
♠ 42
♥ 8653
♦ 863
♣ KJ63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(1) limit in spades or GF

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
	Pass	1♣	1NT(1)
2♦(2)	Pass	2♥(3)	Pass
3♥(4)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣(5)	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) ♠+♥ or ♦+♠

(2) 8+ balanced

(3) Ranges for shape and controls

(4) 4-2-4-3

(5) 3 controls

Both tables coped well enough with this hand and stayed sensibly low. Hydes led a club, Myers a heart. The defenders eventually collected two club tricks and we moved on to the next exhibit.

Bd: 42	North
Dlr: East	♠ 86
Vul: Both	♥ 6
	♦ AK974233
	♣ K982

West	East
♠ 10932	♠ A75
♥ KQ82	♥ 10754
♦ Q865	♦ J103
♣ 10	♣ J63

South
♠ KQJ4
♥ AJ93
♦ ---
♣ AQ754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Both tables coped well with this deal. The spade lead

from Paul speeded things up — not that they needed to be speeded up, the play having finished at this table seven boards ahead of the other room. Hydes got a club lead from Tencok. He gave the matter quite a bit of thought before winning the king, leading a spade to hand, playing the ♥A and ruffing a heart, then crossing to hand in trumps to ruff a second heart. Then he threw a heart and a spade on the diamonds, ruffed a diamond to hand, drew the trump, and gave up a spade. Nicely done. No swing; still 118-82, Hackett.

Bd: 43	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q1094
Vul: None	♥ 86432
	♦ 86
	♣ 75

West	East
♠ A75	♠ KJ2
♥ AJ5	♥ Q107
♦ AKJ10	♦ 972
♣ KJ4	♣ AQ109

South
♠ 863
♥ K9
♦ Q543
♣ 8632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
		Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
			Pass
1♣(16+)	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	3♣(3)	Pass
3♦(2)	Pass	3♥(4)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) 8+ balanced

(2) Relay

(3) 4333 with a minor

(4) Clubs

Tuncok's sequence was likely a slam try since when he asked for more information over McCallum's second bid he had the option of signing off or inviting slam. McCallum had an ace more than she had promised but only three controls. Slam is almost exactly 50%: in the absence of a favorable lead you need two out of the three finesses. At the other table Senior didn't even think of slam facing 19-21.

Next came perhaps the most critical deal of the match thus far regarding both imps and momentum.

Bd: 44
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 76
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ 102
 ♣ AKJ1096

West
 ♠ KJ1052
 ♥ 9742
 ♦ J5
 ♣ Q2

East
 ♠ Q9843
 ♥ 653
 ♦ KQ97
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ A
 ♥ AJ10
 ♦ A8643
 ♣ 7543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
2♠	3♣	4♠	6♣
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
2♠	3♣	3♦	4♠(1)
Pass	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	7♣	7♠	Dbl

All Pass

(1) Either a splinter...or KCB(?)

In the Open Room Paul took a somewhat undisciplined save in front of his partner, but since he was right one can hardly argue with his choice. Here the grand slam really wasn't in the picture but Brock passed it around to her partner to make the final decision. If all that was critical was her heart honors (give partner long hearts not diamonds) that was too bad. Since Myers did not even know that 6♣ was making he had no problem doubling 6♠; a relatively painless 1100.

In the Closed Room Jason was not sure if 4♠ was keycard or a splinter. He responded keycards, and when his partner passed 5♠ around to him he formed an impression that dummy would have long hearts, making his heart honors golden. Over 7♣ McCallum, who might have had the same mental impression of dummy, could not take the heat and saved. Here, though, she might have considered that since her partner had not bid 5♦ over 4♠, if he were short in diamonds and clubs he must have heart length while if he wasn't short in diamonds, he might have saved himself. Regardless, the result was 1400 when even though Hydes tried to give his partner diamond ruffs, the defense still had time to cash out. Those 7 imps (instead of 17 the other way) made it 125-82.

Bd: 45
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J94
 ♥ 9
 ♦ AKQJ832
 ♣ 76

West
 ♠ A1073
 ♥ Q532
 ♦ 96
 ♣ Q42

East
 ♠ KQ86
 ♥ A106
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ A85

South
 ♠ 52
 ♥ KJ874
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KJ1093

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paul	Brock	Senior	Myers
	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Jason	McCallum	Hydes
	1♦	Dbl.	1♥
Dbl	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♦	All Pass	

Brock's solid-minor opening didn't thrill Myers, and the sight of dummy didn't thrill Brock. Senior led a top spade, shifted to a trump, Brock ran a few rounds of that suit, then led a heart up. Senior took his ace, cashed out the spades and led a fourth spade. When Brock ruffed and played a club towards the king-jack Senior ducked and Brock finessed for down 300. Whether you consider that nicely done might depend on what you thought would happen at the other table.

There, after the same first two tricks, Jason played a heart. Again East won her ♥A, cashed out spades, then took the ♣A before the rats could get at it. Declarer was surely going to get clubs right, here, so this was the best E/W could do. But still, 5 imps to Hackett who now led 130-82.

Bd: 46
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K652
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J865
 ♣ 10432

West
 ♠ Q843
 ♥ Q9873
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q8

East
 ♠ J9
 ♥ KJ1052
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ AJ5

South
 ♠ A107
 ♥ A6
 ♦ 10972
 ♣ K976

Open Room
 West North East South
 Paul Brock Senior Myers
 1NT Pass 3♥ Pass
 2♦ Pass
 4♥ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Tuncok Jason McCallum Hydes
 1♣(16+) Pass
 1♥(♠) Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♦(♥) Pass 3♥ Pass
 4♥ All Pass

Senior reached 4♥ from the strong hand and claimed ten tricks on a diamond lead. Tencok played it from the weaker hand after showing both majors and a canape at his second turn. McCallum set hearts but denied any extras, and Tencok signed off. On a club lead he had just enough time to win and cash diamonds to pitch his club loser before conceding the major- suit losers. No swing; still 130-82 for Hackett.

Bd: 47 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 875
 Vul: N/S ♥ 92
 ♦ AK62
 ♣ AKQ7

West
 ♠ A6432
 ♥ Q643
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 1094

East
 ♠ QJ9
 ♥ K
 ♦ QJ753
 ♣ J832

South
 ♠ K10
 ♥ AJ10875
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ 65

Open and Closed Rooms
 West North East South
 Paul Brock Senior Myers
 Tuncok Jason McCallum Hydes
 2♥
 Pass 4♥ All Pass

Finally a preempt yielded the same developments at both tables. Both Wests led their singleton against 4♥, East following with an unreadable five. Both declarers played trumps, each West winning the second as East discarded the ♦3, making it clear they did not have the ♠K or they would have thrown a high diamond, a club for suit-preference, or an encouraging spade. Both Wests thoughtfully played a club; each declarer cashed two clubs, ruffed a club high, drew trumps, went to the remaining diamond honor, and took the discard before playing on spades for the possible overtrick. No swing.

Bd: 48 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q87
 Vul: E/W ♥ K83
 ♦ J973
 ♣ AK7
 West East
 ♠ K1043 ♠ A962
 ♥ Q1096 ♥ A7542
 ♦ A2 ♦ 84
 ♣ 1098 ♣ 32
 South
 ♠ J5
 ♥ J
 ♦ KQ1065
 ♣ QJ654

Open Room
 West North East South
 Paul Brock Senior Myers
 1NT Pass 2NT(♦)
 Pass 3♦ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Tuncok Jason McCallum Hydes
 Pass 1♦ Pass 2♦(1)
 Pass 2NT Pass 3♦
 All Pass

Both tables reached diamonds after North showed a weak notrump. Myers transferred to diamonds, planning to pass a 3♣ rejection. Hydes simply raised and repeated the suit. Both defenses led clubs, won the ♦A and cashed out the major-suit winners before they could be discarded. A flat board at 110.

Hackett won the set 31-8 to lead 130-82. While things were not hopeless for England/USA, they were in a stretch of 28 deals where they had been outscored 90-11.

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

Bd: 49 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K1082
 Vul: None ♥ J94
 ♦ 107
 ♣ A765

West
 ♠ J4
 ♥ A1085
 ♦ A6532
 ♣ K8

East
 ♠ A3
 ♥ K32
 ♦ Q984
 ♣ J943

South
 ♠ Q9765
 ♥ Q76
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ Q102

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dbl	3♠	Dbl	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2NT	Dbl	3♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room Hydes wasn't prepared to let himself be stolen from, even up 48 imps. Over his partner's redouble he bid 4♦ and was doubtless delighted and relieved to hear the auction end there. The only issue in 4♦ looks to be how many tricks it will go down, but Hydes was made of sterner stuff. He won the opening spade lead and returned the suit. McCallum won the king and went for the gusto, underleading her ♣A to Hydes' king. Back came a second club. McCallum won her ace and played a third club as Hydes ruffed, played ace and another diamond, and when South won all declarer needed was a well-placed ♥9 to bring home his partscore. Alas, South exited with ♥Q and the defenders had to take one more trick.

When Senior bought the hand in 3♠ it also seemed to be just a question of undertricks. But when Brock put the ♣K on the table at trick one, declarer could play clubs for no losers. Senior won the ♣A and played a spade as Myers rose ace for a second club play. Senior finessed, drew trump and played a heart to the queen and ace. Eventually he had to negotiate diamonds, but the opening lead made it clear what to do there and he racked up an impressive +140.

Bd: 50
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

West	North	East	South
♠ Q85432	♠ 10	♠ AKJ	♠ 976
♥ A54	♥ KQ108762	♥ J93	♥ ---
♦ KJ9	♦ 62	♦ 43	♦ AQ10875
♣ 3	♣ 542	♣ AKQ107	♣ J986

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
		2♦(1)	Pass
2♠(2)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦(3)	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	All Pass

- (1) 18-19 balanced
(2) Spades...or not
(3) Hearts...or not

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
		1♣	1♦
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Myers showed extras, started a cue-bidding auction, and accepted Brock's second try when the red-suit controls came to life. With the ♦A where it ought to be, slam needs nothing more than four club tricks and trumps not 4-0...until Senior made a Lightner double and got a heart ruff at trick one. Unlucky, especially in light of the tangled auction from the other table where Hydes had been distracted by a conversation with a staff member into thinking his partner had opened a weak-two, not a strong balanced hand. His 2♠ was actually a puppet to 2NT and his 3♦ was a transfer. Thereafter, the auction saw Hydes angling to get his partner to bid spades or notrump. Eventually he succeeded and those 11 imps increased the lead 62.

Bd: 51
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

West	North	East	South
♠ KQ53	♠ J982	♠ A107	♠ 64
♥ 842	♥ 97	♥ K1053	♥ AQJ6
♦ A953	♦ J842	♦ 7	♦ KQ106
♣ KJ	♣ 963	♣ 108752	♣ AQ4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
			1♥
Dbl	Pass	2♣	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Hackett might have envisaged his partner to be short in spades (he had to have two at least) but no doubt expected 2-5-4-2 shape. 3♦ wasn't a thing of beauty, but here again Brock put her fingers unerringly on the ♣K — this time with plenty of excuse. Senior, trying to hide his smile, won, led out the ♦K, ducked, then advanced a low trump. Brock won (an error) and played a second club to Senior, who could not do much but exit with the ♥J. Myers won and cashed a club, Brock discarding a heart. Myers returned a heart and now declarer ruffed and drew trump for eight tricks.

This was still worth 2 imps when the club suit caused England/USA problems in the other room. Hydes led a top spade against 1NT, continued with a low spade to the ten, and Jason shifted to a low club. Had declarer ducked he might have been in decent shape (Hydes wins and probably leads a spade for a second club through, but even if declarer then misguesses he has at least six tricks). Tuncok put in the queen, though, won the club return, and the defense now took four clubs, three spades and the ♦A for two down.

Bd: 52	North
Dlr: West	♠ 942
Vul: Both	♥ K
	♦ 10964
	♣ QJ873

West
♠ AQ6
♥ AQJ83
♦ K853
♣ 6

East
♠ J85
♥ 1096
♦ J72
♣ 9542

South
♠ K1073
♥ 7542
♦ AQ
♣ AK10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Both tables declared hearts, on two rounds of clubs, ruffed by declarer. Brock ruffed low, Hydes ruffed with the ♥J. Where Brock was declarer she led a low diamond to the jack and queen and Senior won to play a third club. Brock ruffed again and played a low diamond to get the good news. She then finessed on the heart return and was forced again, ending with two spades and four hearts in hand and a diamond ruff in dummy for down one.

Hydes led the ♠Q from hand at trick three and was also forced again at trick four. He cashed his spades, led a diamond up, and Tuncok hopped with the ace to play a heart. Declarer finessed and a fourth club now allowed South to pitch the ♦Q as Hydes ruffed. From there it looks like two down but the players agreed to eight tricks and who were we to argue? No swing; still Hackett by 64.

Bd: 53	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q943
Vul: N/S	♥ 1097542
	♦ KQ3
	♣ ---

West
♠ J752
♥ K8
♦ A84
♣ AQ102

East
♠ K1086
♥ AJ
♦ 1052
♣ 9654

South
♠ A
♥ Q63
♦ J976
♣ KJ873

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	2♥	2♠	All Pass

Stop the presses! Someone passed holding a six-card suit! Both Easts played 2♠ on a heart lead and led a spade to the ten and ace. In the Closed Room Senior shifted to a low diamond to the queen and Paul returned a heart. Myers won in hand and ran the

♣9. Had Senior covered the hand might have been more challenging but he played low and Myers let it run. From there the defense had three trumps and two diamonds, but that was it.

In the Open Room a heart came back at trick three and Jason won to play a club to the ten. McCallum ruffed, played the ♦K, ducked, then the ♦Q, won by the ace. A spade to the king revealed the bad news and declarer gave up a diamond to Tuncok who played the ♣J, covered with the queen, and ducked by McCallum. But she was thrown in with a trump to give a ruff sluff and now the club loser went away. Eight tricks made, again; still 146-82, Hackett.

Bd: 54
Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

North
♠ QJ84
♥ A6
♦ 65
♣ AJ1074

West
♠ 752
♥ K85
♦ Q832
♣ 852

East
♠ AK106
♥ 10
♦ AK974
♣ K63

South
♠ 93
♥ QJ97432
♦ J10
♣ Q9

Open Room

West Hydes	North McCallum	East Jason 1♦	South Tuncok 3♥
Pass 4♦	Pass All Pass	Dbl	Pass

Closed Room

West Brock	North Paul	East Myers 1♦	South Senior 3♥
Pass 3NT	Pass All Pass	Dbl	Pass

Tuncok's ♥Q lead looks normal enough, but Jason knew to duck. On the trump shift he won dummy's queen, led a spade to the ten, and when that held he drew trumps, ruffed out the spades and hearts, and crossed to dummy's ♦8 to pitch a club on the ♥K. 11 tricks made and very nice too...but not enough.

In the other room Brock's gutsy 3NT bid sealed the deal. Paul somewhat trustingly led ace and another heart (a club lead would have required declarer to take two spade finesses to make the game). Brock ducked the second heart and eventually led to the ♣K for her ninth trick. 10 imps to England/USA, 146-92.

Bd: 55
Dlr: South
Vul: Both

North
♠ 873
♥ Q102
♦ KQ109
♣ 752

West
♠ AQ962
♥ 4
♦ 752
♣ J1043

East
♠ 1054
♥ AJ6
♦ A864
♣ A96

South
♠ KJ
♥ K98753
♦ J3
♣ KQ8

Open Room

West Hydes	North McCallum	East Jason	South Tuncok 1♥
1♠ 3♠	2♥ All Pass	3♥	Dbl

Closed Room

West Brock	North Paul	East Myers	South Senior 1♥
1♠ 3♠	2♥ All Pass	3♥	Pass

This was a good-news/bad-news/good-news hand. The spade honors were onside making nine tricks easy. But now there was a risk that E/W had missed game. Good news: both clubs were wrong so nine tricks were the limit. McCallum led the ♦K (did Tuncok's double suggest a non-heart lead?) while Hackett led a low heart. Both tables played on trumps, then clubs and emerged with nine tricks with no real problem...and no swing.

Bd: 56
Dlr: West
Vul: None

North
♠ AKJ
♥ QJ5
♦ A4
♣ 106532

West
♠ 32
♥ K
♦ KQJ10975
♣ AK7

East
♠ 9754
♥ 976432
♦ 6
♣ 98

South
♠ Q1086
♥ A108
♦ 832
♣ QJ4

Open Room

West Hydes	North McCallum	East Jason	South Tuncok
1♦ 3♦ Pass All Pass	Dbl Dbl 3♠	1♥ Pass Pass	1♠ 3♥ 4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
1♦	Dbl	2♥(Weak)	2♠
4♦	All Pass		

Myers certainly had the “weak” part of his bid. That persuaded Brock to up the ante to 4♦ and no one felt they had anything more to say. Hackett played three rounds of spades so Brock ruffed a club in dummy to get out for down one.

That undertrick was in a sense irrelevant if 4♠ made at the other table. But the normal diamond lead left declarer far too much to do. Tuncok won the ♦A and advanced the ♣Q to Hydes, who cashed the ♦K as East pitched his second club. Hydes played a third diamond as declarer ruffed high and tried to draw trumps by overtaking the ♠Q and cashing the ♠10. Tuncok advanced the ♣J, ruffed by Jason, who shifted to a low heart, run to Hydes’ king. There was still a club loser at the end of the day for two down. That was 4 more imps to Hackett, leading 150-92.

Bd: 57	North
Dlr: North	♠ 8732
Vul: E/W	♥ J32
	♦ 76
	♣ KJ108

West	East
♠ KJ	♠ Q5
♥ A8765	♥ Q109
♦ K1052	♦ QJ943
♣ 53	♣ A76

South
♠ A10964
♥ K4
♦ A8
♣ Q942

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♠
4♥	4♠	Dbl	Rdbl
		Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass
All Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠

The Closed Room auction looks normal enough. After a diamond to the jack and ace Senior played two rounds of spades and Brock now cashed the ♦K (the ♦10 might have given partner more options). Or maybe West could have led a low diamond, letting

East work out the count of the hand. At this point the ace and another club would beat the hand if partner had the ♥A, but a heart would be necessary when declarer had ♥Kxx and ♣Qxx. This wasn’t as easy a problem as it might appear.

And that was confirmed after a club lead in the Closed Room, when Jason won and shifted to the ♦Q. Declarer won, played ace and another spade, and had West now underled in diamonds to East, a second club might have led to two down. But Hydes cashed his diamond and heart winners for one down.

Bd: 58	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q9642
Vul: Both	♥ KJ6
	♦ Q10
	♣ J95

West	East
♠ 103	♠ K85
♥ A92	♥ Q54
♦ A85	♦ J932
♣ K8762	♣ Q103

South
♠ AJ7
♥ 10873
♦ K764
♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
All Pass			1NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			2♠

Senior’s (lead-directing?) 1♥ opening was of course required by system. (Details available from Hackett & Hackett.) As you can see, the bid worked like a charm, getting N/S to their eight-card fit. The defenders led a diamond to the ace and continued the suit. When declarer led a spade to the jack and cashed the trump ace he had eight tricks off the top.

By contrast, Hydes’ club lead against 1NT put it under pressure at once. Declarer led a heart to the jack and now had seven top losers: four clubs, a diamond and two hearts. Another 5 imps to Hackett, and the lead had risen to 69 imps.

Bd: 59
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q932
 ♥ J93
 ♦ KQ962
 ♣ 10

West
 ♠ 64
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ A43
 ♣ 97532

East
 ♠ J107
 ♥ K865
 ♦ J8
 ♣ QJ64

South
 ♠ AK85
 ♥ AQ2
 ♦ 1075
 ♣ AK8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok

Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠(1)
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	2♥(1)
Pass	3♦(3)	Pass	3♥(1)
Pass	3♠(4)	Pass	4♠

(1) Relay
 (2) 4♠, 5+♦
 (3) 4-3-5-1
 (4) 0-2 controls

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior

Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Five hearts

If you had to guess which table would forget their methods here you'd assume it would be the strong clubbers. Actually, Senior thought at his second turn he had opened 1NT and that 3♣ was a shape relay, to which 3NT was the appropriate response. When he discovered his mistake all he could do was put the dummy down.

Believe it or not, 4♥ is cold on any defense. At the table, on Myers's spade lead, Paul won the ace, led a diamond to the king, crossed to a second spade, and led a diamond up again. Now the defenders cross-ruffed spades and diamonds, played a club, and declarer's remaining trumps were compromised. Instead, suppose declarer wins the spade, leads a diamond to the king followed by a heart to the queen, then a second diamond. West can see that giving his partner a ruff is hopeless, so he shifts to a club to the ten and king. Declarer then leads a third diamond as East ruffs and plays back a club. Now declarer can duck a heart and the defense is helpless.

The key to declarer's play, even on a club lead, is to set up diamonds and give away the ruff, then ruff a club in hand and duck a heart to the jack.

4♠ in the other room did not offer such excitement in the play. Hydes underled the ♦A at trick one and

declarer drew trumps, then misguessed diamonds. But England/USA still had 11 imps, 161-103.

Bd: 60
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q73
 ♥ AJ9843
 ♦ K9
 ♣ KJ

West
 ♠ A64
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ A743
 ♣ 10954

East
 ♠ J108
 ♥ 6
 ♦ Q10652
 ♣ AQ87

South
 ♠ K952
 ♥ K1072
 ♦ J8
 ♣ 632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok

Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

(1) constructive heart raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior

Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	3♥	All Pass	

The way the cards lie, the play in hearts is relatively simple. With both club honors wrong and the ♦A right, the only way to make more than eight tricks is to have a friendly East on opening lead. Jason led the ♠J and conceded 140, where it didn't matter. Where it did matter Myers led...a diamond. Brock shifted to clubs. Myers won and went back to diamonds. Declarer could not force the defense to open up spades since they had a club exit and 3♥ duly wandered one down in the fulness of time. That was 6 more imps to England/USA, trailing 161-109 with four deals to go.

Any hopes of a miracle comeback were squashed on the next deal: a dull 3NT with an overtrick to England/USA. But the boards were still exciting — or could be made so.

Bd: 62
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A9864
 ♥ J542
 ♦ 7
 ♣ J107

West
 ♠ 1075
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ J10852
 ♣ 93

East
 ♠ 32
 ♥ A106
 ♦ 94
 ♣ AKQ642

South
 ♠ KQJ
 ♥ 983
 ♦ AKQ63
 ♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
		1♣	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♣	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
		1♣	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Against 3♠ Myers led two top clubs, then shifted to hearts for a swift down one. Jason was angling for more, leading three rounds of clubs. McCallum ruffed high in dummy and cashed two spades, then three diamonds to pitch two of her hearts. That got her up to nine tricks and a loss of just 2 imps. Should Jason have worked out that a heart play was safe? That double had to be based on something.

Throughout this event the four-card majors had been working better than a jaundiced spectator might have expected. Credit the following swing entirely to them.

Bd: 63
Dir: South
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AK842
♥ 10965
♦ 7
♣ Q104

West
♠ 6
♥ 842
♦ K1062
♣ AJ865

East
♠ Q105
♥ Q7
♦ AQJ94
♣ 732

South
♠ J973
♥ AKJ3
♦ 853
♣ K9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	McCallum	Jason	Tuncok
			1♦(1+)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Paul	Myers	Senior
			1♥
Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Limit+			

Against 2♠ the defenders collected a trump and two aces. But 4♥ by South on a spade lead was a trifle awkward. Senior went up with the ace, led a heart to hand and ducked a diamond. When Myers as East won he chose to exit with the ♥Q. Now Senior could draw trumps and give up a spade for ten tricks — and 10 imps — to make the margin 63.

On the final board both tables correctly settled in 3NT for a flat 430, and Hackett had won 173-110. After 20 deals they were down 73-40, so they had finished in style.



2017 NEC Cup Champions: Hackett

22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tuesday (Feb. 19)	10:00-12:00	Yokohama Cup Swiss (1)	414, 415, 416, 417
	12:20-14:20	Yokohama Cup Swiss (2)	418, 419
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	Yokohama Cup Swiss (3)	
	17:50-19:50	Yokohama Cup Swiss (4)	
Wednesday (Feb. 20)	10:00-12:00	Yokohama Cup Swiss (5)	414, 415, 416, 417
	12:20-14:20	Yokohama Cup Swiss (6)	418, 419
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	Yokohama Cup Swiss (7)	
	17:50-19:50	Yokohama Cup Swiss (8)	
Thursday (Feb. 21)	10:00-12:00	Yokohama Cup Swiss (9)	414, 415, 416, 417
	12:20-14:20	Yokohama Cup Swiss (10)	418, 419
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	Yokohama Cup Swiss (11)	
	17:50-19:50	Yokohama Cup Swiss (12)	
Friday (Feb. 22)	09:00-11:15	Yokohama Cup Quarter-Final (1)	414, 415
	11:35-13:50	Yokohama Cup Quarter-Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	Yokohama Cup Semi-Final (1)	414, 415
	17:35-19:50	Yokohama Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama IMP Pairs	418
Saturday (Feb. 23)	09:00-11:15	Yokohama Cup Final (1)	414, 415
	11:35-13:50	Yokohama Cup Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	Yokohama Cup Final (3)	
	17:35-19:50	Yokohama Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	501, 502
Sunday (Feb. 24)	10:00-17:30	Yokohama Open Pairs	501, 502
	18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony	503

Yokohama Cup Qualifying Swiss: 12 rounds of 14-board matches

Yokohama Cup Quarter- & Semi-finals: two 16-board segments

Yokohama Cup Final: four 16-board segments



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