



YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 2

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Day One of the 2019 Yokohama Cup

At the end of Day One, the top qualifiers are led by team Soaring Shou Tian Wei, Li Zhenhe, Dong Chunhui, Shi Bin, Jin Ke, Zhu Ping) with 63.13 VPs, followed by team YBM (YEH Chen, ZHANG Yalan, SHIH Juei-Yu, WANG Ping, Chen Dawei, SUN Ming) with 59.81 VPs and team LEONG Eric Leong, Cecilia Rimstedt, Bauke Muller, Simon De Wijs) with 57.20 VPs. Seven other teams have VP totals in the 50s while another group of three teams are not far behind them with VP totals in the high 40s. Since Day One scores have rarely been great predictors of the eventual qualifiers in this event, we'll spare you any predictions. The complete Day One rankings are shown below; the individual results for Matches 1-4 are on page 6.

Yokohama Cup: Standings After Day One (Four Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Soaring Shou.	63.13	19	TPE-NK.	45.06	37	Poseidon.	33.54
2	YBM.	59.81	20	TBA.	44.95	38	DARKHORSE.	32.80
3	LEONG.	57.20	21	XYZ.	43.92	39	Shanghai Jingfan.	31.22
4	SARA.	56.68	22	SLIME SQUAD.	42.63	40	CECIL CHAN BRIDGE.	30.81
5	CHINA WOMEN.	56.54	23	Seoul.	42.27	41	Wonderful Life.	30.13
6	Circle.	54.02	24	LCG.	41.99	42	LAS FLORES.	30.08
7	a-chanzu.	52.79	25	NANIWADA.	41.45	43	Morimura.	29.41
8	Air-TRF.	52.72	26	Katsumata.	41.39	44	MMC.	29.40
9	Japan Senior.	50.65	27	China Dalian Aoxin.	40.20	45	C.K. Juniors.	28.04
10	Poker Bear.	50.42	28	HOSA.	40.02	46	Japan Youth.	26.70
11	CHINA OPEN.	49.71	29	Shanghai Qiaoyou.	39.62	47	The Charlie's Angels.	26.60
12	Shanghai Yitong.	49.46	30	Hackett.	39.11	48	MAX SPEED.	24.81
13	PD Times.	48.53	31	LU DONG.	39.09	49	Ace.	22.47
14	YENOVA.	46.51	32	Mistral.	37.55	50	Tiger.	21.68
15	Takahashi.	46.07	33	China Hongyu.	37.25	51	HOSHI.	17.26
16	ISRAEL.	45.41	34	INDIA.	36.37	52	BT Girls.	13.44
17	S.K.	45.28	35	PS-bridge.	35.11	53	Golden Dear.	0
18	SG.	45.12	36	Voler.	33.58			

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

Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature Soaring Shou (21) vs YBM (15)
and LEONG (7) vs SARA (37)

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: Bridgemate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match). Score corrections should be made before the start of the next session, but they will be accepted after the start of the next session if still timely (i.e., until the draw for the KO for corrections to results in the Swiss, until the start of the next KO round for corrections to the Quarter-final or Semi-final results, or until the award of prize money for the KO final), and if there is no reasonable doubt.

KO Draw: The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 5th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 5th-8th group. The same process is repeated for the team finishing 3rd and the team finishing 4th will play against the team not chosen by any of the other three teams. In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Security: No player may leave the playing area during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online Broadcast and the upload of the results of all matches in progress on the web.

Smoking: Once play in a qualifying-round match or a KO-round session starts, smoking is prohibited at ALL times (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), until the player completes the play of all boards in the match or session. (For those wishing to smoke at other times, smoking rooms are located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss: 1 VP for the 1st offence, 3 VPs for all subsequent offences; KO: 3imps for the 1st offence, 10imps for all subsequent offences;

Screen Hesitations: When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the opposite side of the screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the Director). In case of dispute the call from the wrong side will be ignored, but in situations where the wrong side calls or a late call is made and there is no dispute the Director may accept the fact of the delayed call.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices: Mobile phones and other electronic devices capable of receiving/ transmitting information to/from the playing area (e.g., personal computers, tablets, etc.) must be turned off at all times from the beginning of a match/session until the player has completed all boards in the match/session and left the playing area. In KO rounds, mobile phones and other electronic devices in the playing area are prohibited during game time. Players with mobile phones or other electronic devices should surrender their devices to the staff at the service desk and receive a numbered tag for collecting their mobile phones and other devices after the session. The Director may authorize exceptions in emergency situations. Penalties for violations are the same as for smoking violations.

Photography/BBO Vugraph: By entering the event, players (and kibitzers) agree to authorize still and/or video photography by the JCBL and also to appear on BBO VuGraph whenever requested by the Director.

Official Language: English

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

WBF VP scale (14 boards)

IMPs	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost	IMPs	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost
0	10.00	10.00	29	16.88	3.12
1	10.33	9.67	30	17.04	2.96
2	10.66	9.34	31	17.19	2.81
3	10.97	9.03	32	17.34	2.66
4	11.28	8.72	33	17.49	2.51
5	11.58	8.42	34	17.63	2.37
6	11.87	8.13	35	17.77	2.23
7	12.16	7.84	36	17.91	2.09
8	12.44	7.56	37	18.04	1.96
9	12.71	7.29	38	18.17	1.83
10	12.97	7.03	39	18.29	1.71
11	13.23	6.77	40	18.41	1.59
12	13.48	6.52	41	18.53	1.47
13	13.72	6.28	42	18.65	1.35
14	13.96	6.04	43	18.76	1.24
15	14.19	5.81	44	18.87	1.13
16	14.42	5.58	45	18.98	1.02
17	14.64	5.36	46	19.08	0.92
18	14.85	5.15	47	19.18	0.82
19	15.06	4.94	48	19.28	0.72
20	15.26	4.74	49	19.38	0.62
21	15.46	4.54	50	19.47	0.53
22	15.66	4.34	51	19.56	0.44
23	15.85	4.15	52	19.65	0.35
24	16.03	3.97	53	19.74	0.26
25	16.21	3.79	54	19.83	0.17
26	16.38	3.62	55	19.91	0.09
27	16.55	3.45	56	19.99	0.01
28	16.72	3.28	57	20.00	0.00

Team Rosters: 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	WITHDREW
12	Circle:	Charmian Koo, Baron Ng, Flora Wong, Percy Wong, FK Mak
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:	Zhu Bizhi, 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, Li Bin
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, Zhang Feilan, Cao Ji, Dai Jinwei
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 Rye
33	DARKHORSE:	Ilsu CHUNG, Kyunghae SUNG, Jungyoon 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 Shota, Mio Manki
53	Japan Youth:	Yusaku Nishimura, Rai Tanaka, Sanekata Sonoike, Kenji Jindai, Song Yihan, Yusuke Serikawa

Notes: (1) Several name misspellings have come to our attention and have been corrected. (2) A few player names have been added to some teams. Check your team's listing (above) to make sure it is correct.

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

Tuesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 1				Match 2				Match 3				Match 4			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP												
1	51	53	18.41	18.41	35	42	7.56	25.97	47	27	5.58	31.55	28	31	7.56	39.11
2	19	48	17.19	17.19	4	26	10.66	27.19	39	38	11.28	39.13	45	23	6.28	45.41
3	34	43	17.49	17.49	39	28	11.28	28.77	24	45	14.42	43.19	37	34	6.52	49.71
4	32	56	16.88	16.88	2	24	9.34	26.88	20	43	15.26	41.48	27	47	15.06	56.54
5	27	39	9.34	9.34	9	9	6.04	15.38	42	40	10.33	25.71	19	26	10.66	36.37
6	18	21	8.42	8.42	31	43	14.85	23.27	44	32	16.21	39.48	12	33	5.58	45.06
7	26	43	14.64	14.64	44	44	11.87	26.51	22	25	12.16	38.67	35	54	18.53	57.2
8	28	13	0.35	0.35	25	15	6.04	6.39	33	18	4.94	11.33	48	36	13.48	24.81
9	30	20	9.34	9.34	5	23	13.96	23.3	15	6	3.12	26.42	46	57	16.21	42.63
10	17	14	7.29	7.29	15	36	3.28	10.57	29	24	2.23	12.8	52	44	9.67	22.47
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	38	10	3.79	3.79	33	49	18.04	21.83	41	47	17.77	39.6	6	49	14.42	54.02
13	49	20	8.42	8.42	52	27	11.58	20	30	14	2.37	22.37	51	39	7.03	29.4
14	39	12	1.83	1.83	34	1	2.23	4.06	51	17	1.96	6.02	32	43	15.66	21.68
15	43	22	7.56	7.56	10	64	16.72	24.28	9	35	16.88	41.16	47	54	18.65	59.81
16	33	28	16.38	16.38	38	12	4.15	20.53	40	34	5.36	25.89	42	55	16.38	42.27
17	10	23	12.71	12.71	43	35	7.56	20.27	34	30	8.13	28.4	18	49	16.88	45.28
18	6	26	11.58	11.58	41	33	9.34	20.92	23	33	6.77	27.69	17	20	3.12	30.81
19	2	17	2.81	2.81	32	35	15.85	18.66	36	24	5.58	24.24	5	24	9.34	33.58
20	29	31	16.55	16.55	22	17	10	26.55	4	23	4.74	31.29	25	46	18.17	49.46
21	36	40	15.06	15.06	40	48	15.26	30.32	28	66	18.17	48.49	38	42	14.64	63.13
22	50	42	16.55	16.55	20	17	10	26.55	7	18	7.84	34.39	24	32	5.81	40.2
23	46	30	13.23	13.23	37	20	8.42	21.65	18	44	13.23	34.88	50	13	2.37	37.25
24	25	55	18.76	18.76	28	28	10	28.76	3	29	5.58	34.34	22	47	14.19	48.53
25	24	12	1.24	1.24	8	29	13.96	15.2	26	28	14.19	29.39	20	8	1.83	31.22
26	7	26	5.36	5.36	42	37	9.03	14.39	25	13	5.81	20.2	33	25	7.84	28.04
27	5	41	10.66	10.66	30	39	14.19	24.85	43	37	16.72	41.57	4	28	4.94	46.51
28	8	65	19.65	19.65	24	28	10	29.65	21	28	1.83	31.48	1	39	12.44	43.92
29	20	4	3.45	3.45	50	12	4.74	8.19	10	59	17.77	25.96	49	53	16.03	41.99
30	9	22	10.66	10.66	27	24	5.81	16.47	13	48	17.63	34.1	31	28	3.45	37.55
31	41	24	8.72	8.72	6	25	5.15	13.87	48	67	20	33.87	30	55	16.55	50.42
32	4	27	3.12	3.12	19	12	4.15	7.27	46	18	1.83	9.1	14	21	4.34	13.44
33	16	2	3.62	3.62	12	12	1.96	5.58	8	37	15.06	20.64	26	32	12.16	32.8
34	3	10	2.51	2.51	14	36	17.77	20.28	17	36	11.87	32.15	36	35	12.97	45.12
35	45	60	18.41	18.41	1	50	12.44	30.85	38	28	6.77	37.62	7	13	1.47	39.09
36	21	21	4.94	4.94	48	25	13.23	18.17	19	40	14.42	32.59	34	25	7.03	39.62
37	47	46	12.97	12.97	23	25	11.58	24.55	49	49	18.65	43.2	3	46	13.48	56.68
38	12	35	16.21	16.21	16	35	15.85	32.06	35	39	13.23	45.29	21	25	5.36	50.65
39	14	50	18.17	18.17	3	24	8.72	26.89	2	34	8.72	35.61	40	32	9.34	44.95
40	48	38	16.03	16.03	21	28	4.74	20.77	16	51	14.64	35.41	39	34	10.66	46.07
41	31	28	11.28	11.28	18	35	10.66	21.94	12	12	2.23	24.17	53	28	15.85	40.02
42	44	28	5.15	5.15	26	40	10.97	16.12	5	39	9.67	25.79	16	29	3.62	29.41
43	15	30	12.44	12.44	17	43	12.44	24.88	27	9	3.28	28.16	44	41	13.23	41.39
44	42	46	14.85	14.85	7	38	8.13	22.98	6	7	3.79	26.77	43	30	6.77	33.54
45	35	20	1.59	1.59	51	35	17.49	19.08	52	72	19.99	39.07	2	36	13.72	52.79
46	23	19	6.77	6.77	47	11	1.35	8.12	32	56	18.17	26.29	9	32	3.79	30.08
47	37	36	7.03	7.03	46	53	18.65	25.68	1	43	14.42	40.1	15	12	1.35	41.45
48	40	14	3.97	3.97	36	14	6.77	10.74	31	6	0	10.74	8	24	6.52	17.26
49	13	25	11.58	11.58	53	47	13.23	24.81	37	7	1.35	26.16	29	29	3.97	30.13
50	22	15	3.45	3.45	29	32	15.26	18.71	53	42	16.38	35.09	23	47	17.63	52.72
51	1	13	1.59	1.59	45	2	2.51	4.1	14	54	18.04	22.14	13	49	12.97	35.11
52	53	37	7.84	7.84	13	22	8.42	16.26	45	16	0.01	16.27	10	45	10.33	26.6
53	52	44	12.16	12.16	49	36	6.77	18.93	50	16	3.62	22.55	41	5	4.15	26.7

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

Match One: PD Times vs Shanghai Qiaoyou

by Barry Rigal



Cai



Fu



Jun



Jing



Jiang



Li



Huang



Nie

PD Times, featuring two well known names on the world scene, Patrick Huang and Fu Zhong, faced off against one of the Shanghai squads. This year China was especially well represented, with plenty of local teams as well as the national Open and Women's squads. With two players whose names are Liu (and whose second names begin with J) we shall refer to them as Jing and Jun.

Bd: 1 North
 Dir: North ♠ QJ98
 Vul: None ♥ AQ54
 ♦ J104
 ♣ A7

West
 ♠ K2
 ♥ K108763
 ♦ A93
 ♣ 108

East
 ♠ A10753
 ♥ 9
 ♦ Q765
 ♣ K64

South
 ♠ 64
 ♥ J2
 ♦ K82
 ♣ QJ9532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cai</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Nie</i>
	1NT	2♠(1)	3♣

3♦ All Pass
 (1) Spades+minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jing</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Li</i>
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣

All Pass

The light intervention over 1NT worked far better for Liu Jing than for Liu Jun. Where Jun showed spades and a minor Cai had to guess whether to act, and

had only one shot since Nie's 3♣ was natural and non-forcing (strike one for Lebensohl). He guessed to act, and 3♦ was not a fun spot. Fu led ♣A and another club. Declarer won the king and ruffed a club with ♦9, overruffed with the ♦10. Fu returned his low trump and Nie let dummy's five hold — a rarity that availed declarer very little since all he could do was lead a heart to the nine, ten and queen. Back came a second trump. Declarer won his ace, then advanced the ♥10, covered with the queen and ruffed. When he led a third round of trumps Nie won and could now run his clubs for down three.

The extra undertricks hardly mattered since in the other room Li balanced into 3♣ over 2♥ — which might well have made. Jing started well with the ♠K and a second spade, letting Huang shift to hearts (essential, as we shall see later). When declarer played ace and a second club Huang took his king and shifted to diamonds. Declarer played to make, rising with the ♦K, thus losing two diamonds and a heart ruff for down two. Could East have passed over 1NT with a 5-4 shape and a 10-count? It was probably worth the extra undertrick to find out.

The field generally went plus as E/W here, with pride of place going to Hiroki Yokoi and Shugo Tanaka who bid their cards to 3NT and made it on a small diamond lead. (Now you may question their bidding judgment but that is another matter.) By contrast, Keysad Anklesaria and Rajeshwar Tewari played 3♣x from the South seat on the lead of the ♠K. The defenders played three rounds of spades. Declarer ruffed high and could then have succeeded by force by playing a club to dummy and running the ♦J. West could do no better than win and return the ♥K. Declarer wins in dummy to play a club to his queen and can take the rest easily enough. If West ducks the ♦A (best) declarer leads a trump and East takes his king to return a heart to try to lock declarer in dummy. South ripostes by ruffing the spade winner

to hand to draw the last trump, then runs the trumps. That forces East down to the bare $\diamond A$ and two hearts, allowing declarer to exit from hand with a low diamond and take the last two tricks.

PD Times led 6-0 and added two overtrick imps over the next three deals. Both E/W pairs did well here:

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East \spadesuit J53
 Vul: N/S \heartsuit Q10953
 \diamond 9
 \clubsuit Q754

West
 \spadesuit 82
 \heartsuit 74
 \diamond A762
 \clubsuit AKJ96

East
 \spadesuit 76
 \heartsuit AKJ82
 \diamond QJ1043
 \clubsuit 10

South
 \spadesuit AKQ1094
 \heartsuit 6
 \diamond K85
 \clubsuit 832

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cai</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Nie</i>
		1 \heartsuit	1 \spadesuit
Dbl	Pass	2 \diamond	2 \clubsuit
Dbl	Pass	3 \diamond	Pass
4 \diamond	Pass	5 \diamond	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jing</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Li</i>
		1 \heartsuit	1 \spadesuit
Dbl	2 \spadesuit	3 \diamond	3 \clubsuit
5 \diamond	All Pass		

Both declarers reached 5 \diamond on sensible auctions; both received the defense of two top spades and a club shift. Huang took the ace and came to hand with a club ruff to take two diamond finesses. When Li covered the second diamond Huang took the heart finesse for his contract. Jun came to hand on a top heart and led two diamonds. Nie did not cover so now declarer got to draw the last trump, try to drop the $\clubsuit Q$, and when it did not fall he had a choice of taking the ruffing club finesse or the heart finesse to make his game. He opted for the latter.

The datum here was 170 to E/W; about half of the field played in a partscore or went down in game.

After a quiet game, both our tables played 4 \spadesuit here...

"Let us be thankful for fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed." – Mark Twain

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West \spadesuit AQJ10985
 Vul: Both \heartsuit 5
 \diamond A72
 \clubsuit 109

West
 \spadesuit 3
 \heartsuit 109642
 \diamond KQJ53
 \clubsuit 82

East
 \spadesuit 6
 \heartsuit AK3
 \diamond 10864
 \clubsuit KQJ63

South
 \spadesuit K742
 \heartsuit QJ87
 \diamond 9
 \clubsuit A754

Fu-Nie after South jumped to 4 \spadesuit when East doubled 1 \spadesuit , Jiang-Li after South had redoubled the double of 1 \spadesuit . PD Times emerged with an overtrick following a top heart lead, when the $\heartsuit AK$ ruffed out for the discard. Only six pairs tried slam here: India, Poseidon and Wonderful Life were fortunate enough to receive a top heart lead and bring home the slam. The other three tables went down on a top club lead.

PD Times led by 8-0 at this point in the set, but they struck two body-blows in quick succession.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North \spadesuit J842
 Vul: N/S \heartsuit J1076
 \diamond 10972
 \clubsuit A

West
 \spadesuit 75
 \heartsuit AKQ
 \diamond KQ8
 \clubsuit QJ764

East
 \spadesuit K10963
 \heartsuit 542
 \diamond J53
 \clubsuit K8

South
 \spadesuit AQ
 \heartsuit 983
 \diamond A64
 \clubsuit 109532

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Cai</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Nie</i>
<i>Jing</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Li</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 \clubsuit (16+)	Pass	1 \diamond (0-7)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass
2 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Fu led a small heart against 3NT declarer won in hand to lead a low club up and the first hurdle was overcome. Fu shifted to a top diamond, which ran around to West's queen. Declarer unblocked clubs and played the simple percentage line in spades of

low to the king, knowing North had more spades than South. When it lost to the ace he was dead in the water. Unlucky. But in the other room Jiang selected a low spade lead. Declarer played small from dummy, losing to the queen. Back came a heart and declarer won and led a top diamond. When the defenders took the $\diamond A$ that gave declarer time to win the next heart and lead a club up. North could win and clear hearts, but declarer could unblock clubs (North making the fatal error of pitching a spade) and come back to hand with a diamond to play one more top club, then a spade to the nine and ace. Since North had unguarded spades, whether South returned a club or a diamond declarer had the rest. Had North pitched a red suit on the second round of clubs declarer would not have been able to untangle his winners since unless West cashed all his club winners (setting up a trick for South) South could lock declarer in dummy with the $\diamond J$ for North to collect a spade trick. Anyway, that was 10 imps to PD Times. Bareket-Lengy for Israel were the only other pair who succeeded in 3NT here.

There was more of the same for PD Times on the next deal.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East \spadesuit 843
 Vul: E/W \heartsuit A10742
 \diamond AQ9
 \clubsuit Q2

West
 \spadesuit Q65
 \heartsuit Q653
 \diamond 3
 \clubsuit K10653

East
 \spadesuit KJ9
 \heartsuit KJ98
 \diamond 108542
 \clubsuit 8

South
 \spadesuit A1072
 \heartsuit ---
 \diamond KJ76
 \clubsuit AJ974

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cai</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Nie</i>
		Pass	2 \clubsuit (10-15)
Pass	2 \diamond (1)	Pass	2 \spadesuit
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jing</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Li</i>
		Pass	1 \diamond
Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	2 \clubsuit (4SF)	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Where Huang led a heart against 3NT Jiang took the $\heartsuit Q$ with his ace and passed the $\clubsuit Q$ around to Jing.

Back came the $\heartsuit 3$. Huang took this cheaply, cashed the $\heartsuit K$ and realized the danger of continuing hearts. Since dummy had discarded spades on the hearts he could shift to a spade, leaving declarer no chance when clubs did not behave.

In the other room Jun led a diamond. Declarer won in hand and advanced the $\clubsuit Q$, ducked around to the king. Now Cai shifted to an attitude $\heartsuit 6$. Jun won the eight and returned the nine. When Cai played his queen declarer ducked again, giving West his last chance to shift to spades. When he played a third heart declarer could establish the 13th heart for his ninth trick.

India had exactly the same accident to concede the ninth trick; it is surprisingly difficult for the defenders both to give count and show attitude in the suit. Brain Senior for the Hackett team was West. He shifted to the $\heartsuit Q$ at trick three and when declarer took this the defenders had no further problem. Had North ducked and concealed the $\heartsuit 2$ on this and the next round, the defenders would certainly have had their work cut out to find the spade shift, though dummy's discards of spades might have made the task easier. The datum was +220 here; more than half the field allowed 3NT to make.

Our featured match then went quiet, with only three undertrick imps being scored over the next three deals. Then a flurry of imps emerged at the end of the match.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East \spadesuit 10953
 Vul: Both \heartsuit A87432
 \diamond J10
 \clubsuit 10

West
 \spadesuit Q7
 \heartsuit QJ9
 \diamond A9764
 \clubsuit A84

East
 \spadesuit AK6
 \heartsuit 5
 \diamond 8532
 \clubsuit K9752

South
 \spadesuit J842
 \heartsuit K106
 \diamond KQ
 \clubsuit QJ63

It looks easy enough to get to diamonds if West is allowed to open that suit. But if either N/S or E/W are playing Precision (when South might open that suit and steal it from his opponents or West might not be able to show the suit even if given a clear run) life is harder. Both Souths passed their 12-count, though, giving E/W a chance. Huang-Jing did find diamonds, playing a partscore for +150 after Huang made a fit bid for diamonds. Meanwhile, after Cai opened 1 \diamond as West he finished in 2NT, down on a heart lead. That

was 6imps to PD Times. In our other featured match Japan Seniors took the lead when their opponents saved in 4♥x over 3NT, down 800. Elsewhere, three tables brought home 3NT after a spade lead from South, while three pairs played 5♦ — not a terrible spot and cold with diamonds two-two.

Our next deal is another bidding challenge. 5♣ looks excellent but who bids minors these days?

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ KQ106
 Vul: None ♥ QJ75
 ♦ J65
 ♣ 52

West
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A1082
 ♦ A94
 ♣ AKQ83

East
 ♠ AJ9543
 ♥ 963
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 1074

South
 ♠ 72
 ♥ K4
 ♦ KQ10873
 ♣ J96

Where Shanghai Jingfan had a clear run at the auction (South passed initially then came in at the two level over a strong club) they played 5♣ on a very effective trump lead; now declarer could not play hearts to best advantage so easily. He ruffed a diamond in dummy, then came to the ♥A to ruff another diamond, and when hearts did not break he had three losers in that suit. The logical alternative line does not work either: if declarer ruffs a diamond at trick two, then comes to hand by ruffing a spade to ruff another diamond, he can now lead a heart to the eight and jack. But when North leads a top spade he can force declarer down to a point where North has a spade winner when in with his second heart trick. No, to succeed West must lead a spade at trick two to force North to split his honors. Now in the parallel position North does not have two spade winners left when in on the first heart and declarer can succeed.

PD Times played 3♠ on a top diamond lead from South. After Huang won and led a spade, ducking North's queen, a second diamond gave him all the help he needed. He ruffed, cashed the ♠A and then ran clubs. North ruffed and played a heart, but declarer won the ♠A and played a fourth club, pitching one heart as North ruffed in. In a similar situation in 4♠ Justin Hackett was allowed to lead a spade to the jack at trick two, when declaring 4♠. That allowed him to make ten tricks; not a top across the field since Chen Yicha for Yenova collected +450 while Setsuko Ogihara for TBA brought home +590 in the same contract.

Our featured match still had two big swings, with Shanghai Jingfan down 43-0, but with the chance to make serious inroads into that lead.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ J10542
 Vul: N/S ♥ 8

♦ J653
 ♣ K54

West
 ♠ AKQ98
 ♥ K73
 ♦ 87
 ♣ A96

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ QJ10542
 ♦ AK104
 ♣ 1087

South
 ♠ 763
 ♥ A96
 ♦ Q92
 ♣ QJ32

Open Room

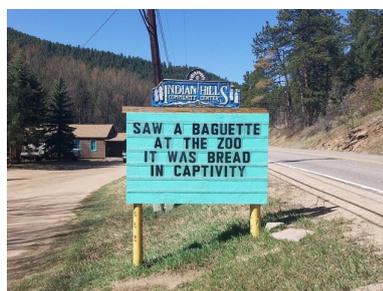
West	North	East	South
<i>Cai</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Nie</i>
1♣(16+)	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦(♥Q?)	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jing</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Li</i>
1♣(16+)	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

If East is allowed to show extra suit length or values after hearts are set as trumps, West has an easy opportunity to take control. In the Closed Room Huang was not prepared to go beyond game facing what he expected to be a dead minimum with bad controls, and Jingfan had 11imps in the bag. With the datum at +560 it is clear that the field had a similar problem (but if you play 2/1 with 3♥ non-forcing but invitational you might have a chance).

On the next deal Shanghai Jingfan had the opportunity to play "double or nothing."



Bd: 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J105
 ♥ 753
 ♦ 62
 ♣ AQ543

West
 ♠ 82
 ♥ K4
 ♦ AKQ1093
 ♣ K109

East
 ♠ AQ973
 ♥ A98
 ♦ J874
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ K64
 ♥ QJ1062
 ♦ 5
 ♣ J762

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jing</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Li</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Fu led a spade against 6♦ and declarer's fate was sealed at trick two when he finessed and a club came back. You might argue with Jing's decision not to look for slam but he was right on this occasion. And since it was worth 12 imps at the table and 10 imps on the Butler score (the datum being E/W +140) who can say he was wrong? That made it 55-12 to PD Times, and earned them a return to Vugraph and BBO in match two.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cai</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Nie</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Dbl	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

"Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person."



"So then I told her, 'I'm in charge of bidding slams.'"



"Let's see. Up means spades...er, clubs."

Match Two: Hackett vs Lu Dong

by Rich Colker



Xin



Paul



Wei



Mossop



YZ



Hydes



Brenner



Wang

With two Zhangs playing for Lu Dong (the West player in the Open Room and the North player in the Closed Room), for clarity we shall refer to the East Zhang as Wei and the North Zhang as YZ.

Bd: 17
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ AKJ97
♥ AJ53
♦ J63
♣ 9

West
♠ Q652
♥ 10
♦ 75
♣ Q105432

East
♠ ---
♥ Q987642
♦ 1082
♣ A76

South
♠ 10843
♥ K
♦ AKQ94
♣ KJ8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♠	3♥	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	1♠	3♥	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

At both tables East's preempt failed to deter N/S, who bid quickly to the good spade slam. In the Open Room Paul won the heart lead in dummy, played a spade to the ace revealing the bad split, then returned to dummy with a diamond to finish trumps with the help of two finesses. When Paul led a club up Ju ducked, and Paul rose with the king to claim 13 tricks; +1010. In the Closed Room Hydes put an

end to any hope of an overtrick when he led the ♣A. From there play followed that in the Open Room; +980. Hackett 1-0.

Bidding slam was the plurality action here. Four pairs went down in high-level spade contracts after a heart lead, perhaps by trying to ruff a heart to dummy and being overruffed...two of them in 5♠ no less.

Bd: 18
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 98543
♥ 87
♦ A5
♣ Q432

West
♠ J2
♥ AK
♦ Q974
♣ AK986

East
♠ AK6
♥ J642
♦ KJ1062
♣ 5

South
♠ Q107
♥ Q10953
♦ 83
♣ J107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1♦(1)	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		1♦	Pass
2♦(F)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

In the Open Room Xin-Wei had no problem bidding the cold diamond slam. Wei won the heart lead and played along dummy reversal lines, ruffing two clubs in hand, and when trumps broke two-two he claimed 12 tricks; +920. In the Closed Room Mossop-Hydes got off to a good start but somewhere along the way the wheels came off (should Mossop have carried on over Hydes's 5♦ or bid Blackwood over 4♠?) and they settled for game only. When the ♠J held at trick one Hydes played on trumps and claimed when they split two-two. That was +420, 11 imps to Lu Dong, leading 11-1.

Very few pairs missed slam here though one pair did find 6NT.

Bd: 19
Dir: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ KJ5
♥ 1076542
♦ 107
♣ Q9

West
♠ AQ43
♥ A
♦ AK986
♣ K106

East
♠ 109872
♥ KJ93
♦ 3
♣ 432

South
♠ 6
♥ Q8
♦ QJ542
♣ AJ875

Open Room

West <i>Xin</i>	North <i>Paul</i>	East <i>Wei</i>	South <i>Brenner</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)	1NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣	2♠	3♣
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Mossop</i>	North <i>YZ</i>	East <i>Hydes</i>	South <i>Wang</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Dbl
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room Wei won the diamond lead, unblocked the ♥A, ruffed a diamond to hand, cashed the ♥K pitching a club from dummy (noting the fall of the queen), and led a club up. Brenner flew ace and switched to a trump. Wei won the ace and in time lost two trump tricks for +620.

In the Closed Room where the Brits had climbed a level higher YZ led the ♣Q to the ace and Wang returned a club. Hydes rose with the king, cashed the ♦A and ♠A, then claimed down one, -100, as Lu Dong's lead increased to 23-1.

Twenty percent of the field got too high here making it high time for Hackett to strike back.

Bd: 20
Dir: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ QJ106
♥ 72
♦ J643
♣ AK8

West
♠ A2
♥ AKJ986
♦ A
♣ Q943

East
♠ K73
♥ 1053
♦ 982
♣ J1076

South
♠ 9854
♥ Q4
♦ KQ1075
♣ 52

Open Room

West <i>Xin</i>	North <i>Paul</i>	East <i>Wei</i>	South <i>Brenner</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

(1) Strong

(2) Negative

Closed Room

West <i>Mossop</i>	North <i>YZ</i>	East <i>Hydes</i>	South <i>Wang</i>
1♥	Dbl	2♥	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room first Xin and then Wei took a rather dim view of their hands. With trumps sitting favorably, even the club ruff couldn't stop the heart game. Paul led a heart. Wei drew trumps and claimed 11 tricks for +200. In the Closed Room Hydes thought better of his hand opposite a more limited opening and made a token raise that launched Mossop into game. Plus 650 was worth 10 imps to Hackett, who shrunk the lead to 12 at 23-11.

Bd: 21
Dir: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AQ972
♥ 1053
♦ K942
♣ Q

West
♠ K1063
♥ 8
♦ AJ83
♣ 8754

East
♠ J4
♥ J972
♦ Q5
♣ KJ632

South
♠ 85
♥ AKQ64
♦ 1076
♣ A109

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In the Open Room Paul took a decidedly optimistic view of his hand given the wasted ♣Q, the weak three-card support, and the overall minimal values. Six hearts had precious little play and when neither major split favorably Brenner finished down two, -200. In the Closed Room YZ-Wang never even sniffed at slam. Wang won Mossop's club lead in hand and embarked on a somewhat dangerous line. He ruffed a club, crossed to the ♥K, ruffed a second club, then got out with a low spade to Hydes's jack. Hydes tried the ♣J but Wang ruffed, cashed the ♥AQ, getting the bad news, then took the spade finesse. Hydes ruffed the ♠A as Wang threw a diamond but with the ♦A on side Wang scored up +620 for a 13-imp gain. Lu Dong, 36-11.

At another table Simon de Wijs defended 4♥ after South had made a slam try suggesting a club control. He underled the ♦A and when declarer played low Bauke Muller won his queen and returned the suit. De Wijs won his ace and played a third diamond, declarer finessing as Muller ruffed. Now came the ♣K and declarer took the ruffing finesse in clubs to go down tamely. It was surely better to assume that East had the ♣J and take the spade finesse, ruff a club, draw trumps, cross to the ♠Q and pitch the club loser on the ♦K.

On the very next deal Hackett struck back again.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ AJ42
Vul: E/W	♥ K74
	♦ QJ10
	♣ AK10
West	East
♠ Q9875	♠ K106
♥ A962	♥ 5
♦ 4	♦ A9875
♣ J84	♣ 9632
	South
	♠ 3
	♥ QJ1083
	♦ K632
	♣ Q75

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠(Spl)
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
All Pass			
(1) Strong			

In the Open Room Brenner's weak 2♥ opening convinced Paul to settle for game. Xin led a diamond, and obtained a ruff, but Wei could never regain the lead so 4♥ came home for +420. In the Closed Room it was Wang's turn to wax optimistic, resulting in the pair reaching the five level. Wang won the spade lead and played on trumps. Mossop won the third round and continued spades. Wang ruffed and was now down to Mossop's length in trumps. He tried a diamond but Hydes won and continued the spade attack. Now the best Wang could do was to cash three rounds of clubs for eight tricks; down three, -150. That was 11 imps back to Hackett, who now trailed 36-22.

Only 1 imp swung on the next two boards. On Board 23 both sides played 4NT (3NT was too easy) and came away with 11 tricks when diamonds split three-three for a push.

In our other featured match, XYZ against PD Times, the former bid slam and found the break plus a side-suit finesse was all you needed to make slam virtually a claim. Amazingly, almost half the field bid and made slam here.

On Board 24 both sides played a 3♣ part-score. Hydes managing 10 tricks while Wei managed only 9; 1 imp to Hackett, making it 36-23.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ ---
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ43
	♦ K9764
	♣ A954
West	East
♠ 863	♠ AKJ72
♥ J965	♥ 1087
♦ Q8	♦ A53
♣ 8732	♣ QJ
	South
	♠ Q10954
	♥ K2
	♦ J102
	♣ K106

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

In the Open Room Brenner went for the gusto in 1♠x. After the ♦J lead to the queen, king and ace, Brenner won the diamond return with the ten and played the top three hearts, pitching his last diamond. He could now ruff his partner's return of a diamond with the ♠9. He cashed the ♣K, and led the ♣10 to the king as the ♣QJ fell. Next Paul played the ♦7, and when Wei ruffed with the ♠7 Brenner overruffed with the ♠10, then led a club to the nine as Wei ruffed. The defense ended up scoring two clubs, three hearts, one diamond and three trumps in the end for down three, -800.

In the Closed Room Mossop decided to play fast and loose with his near-Yarborough and paid dearly for it — though not quite as dearly as he might have. Hydes had confused North's opening call as 1♣ not 1♦ so alerted the 2♣ call as showing diamonds! Wang now decided E/W had found a safe place to play in diamonds and stepped into an auction that was headed for the deep six. He was bailed out somewhat when Hydes couldn't take Mossop's joke and lowered the hammer on 2♠. (All credit to YZ, who stood his ground with his void.) Mossop led the ♦Q to the king, ace and two and Hydes shifted to the ♣Q. Wang won the ace in dummy, led a diamond to the jack, cashed the top hearts pitching the ♦10, and came off dummy with the last heart as Hydes ruffed in with the ♠K and Wang pitched the ♣10. Now Hydes played his last diamond and when Wang ruffed with the ♠5 Mossop inexplicably pitched the ♣3 instead of overruffing. With Hydes down to all trumps Wang lead a low trump to the seven, and Hydes could do better than exit with the ♠2, endplaying Wang for the last two tricks. Wang had scored two clubs, three hearts and three trumps for a consolation score of +470, but that was still 8imps to Hackett, who closed to within 5 at 36-31.

PD Times collected 500 against 1♠x while conceding 180 in 2NT in the other room to pick up 8imps. Penalties of 500 or 800 were almost the norm here, but enough N/S pairs took their opponents off the hook that the datum was 300 to N/S.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ 94
Vul: Both	♥ 10762
	♦ AQJ10
	♣ 965
West	East
♠ QJ75	♠ 1086
♥ AJ	♥ 9843
♦ 9853	♦ 7642
♣ Q32	♣ 87
South	
♠ AK32	
♥ KQ5	
♦ K	
♣ AKJ104	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣(3)	Pass	3♦(4)
Pass	3♠(5)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

At both tables West led the ♠Q. In the Open Room Brenner, in 5♣, won, cashed the two top trumps, then ran the diamonds and ended up losing just one heart and one trump; +600. In the Closed Room YZ-Wang found their four-three heart fit. Wang won the spade lead in hand and tabled the ♥K. Mossop won and exited with a diamond to Wang's king. Next came the ♣K followed by the ace, on which Mossop unblocked the ♣Q, hoping to find Hydes with the jack to play a spade through. Not to be. Declarer ended up losing just two hearts for +650 and 2 usefulimps to Lu Dong, whose lead was back up to 7 at 38-31.

Hackett had done well to climb back into the match, but he was about to take another big hit.

Bd: 27	North
Dlr: South	♠ 532
Vul: None	♥ AJ10842
	♦ Q10
	♣ 54
West	East
♠ AK876	♠ Q104
♥ K	♥ 9
♦ AJ973	♦ 8642
♣ A9	♣ KQJ103
South	
♠ J9	
♥ Q7653	
♦ K5	
♣ 8762	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣(1)	Dbl(♥)	2♣	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

(1) Strong

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Papa's heart-showing double in the Open Room accelerated the auction quickly to the four level, leaving little room for Xin-Wei to explore slam possibilities — not that they would wish to on this deal! Xin bid 4♠ knowing that clubs was playable if spades wasn't and Wei made a good decision to pass holding modest values for his 2♣ bid. They lost the obvious two tricks; +450. In the Closed Room Mossop bid the slam missing a key card once his partner showed (with 5♥) the ♠Q. Dummy was good news-bad news; it had a useful running club suit but no help in diamonds, and in the end declarer had to lose one trick in each red suit; -50. That was 11 moreimps to Lu Dong, who now led by 18 at 49-31.

Muted congratulations should go to Kaoru Sentu-Mashiko Sento, as well as to Kenji Jindai-Yusaku Nishimura who bid to 6♠ against a North who was not prepared to lead the ♥A, after which the heart loser went away and slam came home.

Bd: 28	North
Dlr: West	♠ 64
Vul: N/S	♥ AK7
	♦ KJ1076
	♣ AQ7

West	East
♠ J10875	♠ AQ
♥ J95	♥ Q642
♦ 83	♦ 942
♣ K106	♣ 9843
South	
♠ K932	
♥ 1083	
♦ AQ5	
♣ J52	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables declared 3NT with eight tricks on top and a ninth available via a finesse in either black suit. The spade finesse risks the contract whenever it loses and they can cash five spades (or four spades if the club finesse is also off) while taking a losing club finesse risks the contract if East holds ♠QJ5, ♠J105 or ♠Q105 and finds the shift. Papa took 9 tricks in the Open Room. He won Wei's heart lead in hand, crossed in diamonds, and played a club to the queen, then cashed out. In the Closed Room a spade was led to the ace and the ♠Q ducked. When Hydes could not continue the suit and switched to a heart it was safe for Wang later to take the club finesse for a tenth trick and a 1-imp pickup for Lu Dong; 50-31.

Papa made another comeback of sorts on the final two deals...but it was not enough.

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ J2
Vul: Both	♥ KQJ943
	♦ 876
	♣ 82

West	East
♠ A1098	♠ 7543
♥ 875	♥ A106
♦ A92	♦ KQ4
♣ Q106	♣ A93

South
♠ KQ6
♥ 2
♦ J1053
♣ KJ754

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
4♠	2♥	Dbl	Pass
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl	Rdbl(2)
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

(1) Multi (a wk 2-bid in an undisclosed major)
(2) Bid your major

In the Open Room Xin was possibly a trifle unlucky to find his partner with such flat distribution and little in the way of extras. With no long suits on which to pitch losers he was doomed to lose two tricks in each major and a club for down two, -200. Still, inviting

game is legal in 36 of the 50 United States and we are reliably informed that your partner knows what his 13 cards are better than you, no matter how smart you are.

In the Closed Room Wang stayed low given the misfit while Mossop judged well to stay silent facing a likely balanced weak notrump. Two hearts was doomed to fail by either one or two tricks, depending on the club guess. The summary sheets indicate that Wang ended up down two (though the play record indicates down one), -200, a 9-imp pickup for Hackett, who trailed now by 10, 50-40.

Only two pairs made game as E/W here. The successful declarers were Wang Ping of YBM and Charmian Koo of Circle, who received low club leads against 3NT from the East seat. After the ♣10 wins in dummy, the lead of a low spade makes it almost impossible for North to rise with an honor. When South wins the spade and shifts to a heart you take the ace, cash off all the diamonds, then clear spades — and Bob's your uncle! South can cash a diamond and two spades but must then lead away from the clubs to concede the ninth trick.



Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A6
 ♥ KQ4
 ♦ AJ963
 ♣ A87

West
 ♠ 83
 ♥ 10962
 ♦ 10852
 ♣ K53

East
 ♠ 1075
 ♥ A7
 ♦ K74
 ♣ QJ962

South
 ♠ KQJ942
 ♥ J853
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>YZ</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	4♣(2)	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	4♥(♠)

- (1) Multi
- (2) Requests a transfer to the major

When 4♠ was played from the South side Xin led the ♥10 to the ace and Brenner emerged with 12 tricks for +680. When YZ played 4♠ from the North side (hooray for transfers!?) the ♣Q was led and YZ came home with only 10 tricks. That was 2 more imps to Hackett, but Lu Dong emerged the winner, 50-42.



“Would you believe it just got stuck like that?”



“I feel pretty, oh so pretty...”

Match Three: Israel vs TBA

by Barry Rigal



Yoshida



Barel



Zack



Geller



Lengy



Miura



Kubo



Bareket

TBA featured two of our favorite Japanese players (as they have been responsible over the last two decades at various times for organizing this tournament and paying us, so we have to say that) Tadashi Yoshida and Bob Geller. Israel was one of the clear ante-post favorites and both teams started well. Would they wither under the spotlight? Watch this space.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North	♠ 5
	♥ QJ85
	♦ K73
	♣ KJ1062
West	
	♠ J642
	♥ K62
	♦ Q964
	♣ 43
East	
	♠ K3
	♥ 1073
	♦ A82
	♣ Q9875
South	
	♠ AQ10987
	♥ A94
	♦ J105
	♣ A

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Barel	Geller	Zack
Lengy	Miura	Bareket	Kubo
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Easts led a low club. When the ace won both declarers led a heart from dummy. Kubo was allowed to score his ♥Q, so could lead a spade to the queen (the percentage play since it picks up Jx offside while it's equivalent to leading to the ten if the suit breaks 3-3). Now declarer cleared spades and was playing for overtricks; he ended with two when the defenders set up diamonds for him. In the other room Yoshida

took his ♥K as West at trick two and returned a club to the jack and queen, as dummy pitched a spade. When Geller exited with a low club, declarer had four club tricks and no longer needed to play on spades. Instead, he set up a diamond winner for his ninth trick. Nicely done but still 2 imps for TBA.

Two thirds of the field made game here, but quite a few N/S pairs stopped short of game or went down in either 4♠ or 3NT.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ 532
	♥ 932
	♦ QJ1032
	♣ 97
West	
	♠ KQ98
	♥ Q10864
	♦ K
	♣ J105
East	
	♠ AJ1064
	♥ 5
	♦ 85
	♣ AK642
South	
	♠ 7
	♥ AKJ7
	♦ A9764
	♣ Q83

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Barel	Geller	Zack
		1♠	DbI
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Lengy	Miura	Bareket	Kubo
		1♠	DbI
4♠	Pass	Pass	DbI
All Pass			

Where 4♠ was not doubled Zack led a top heart, then shifted to a low club to concede 450. Nice, but Lengy had already set up a 4-imp pick-up for his side

by his bounce to 4♠, tempting South to double again. Whether or not Miura should bid 5♦, he passed, and hoped to beat it. After a heart lead and trump shift Bareket announced ownership of the table by drawing trump and leading a club from hand to dummy's jack to make it +690 rather than +590. Sneaky stuff.

Bd: 3
Dir: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ Q8762
♥ 4
♦ KQ7
♣ A952

West
♠ 10
♥ QJ10973
♦ 98642
♣ 10

East
♠ K943
♥ ---
♦ AJ105
♣ Q8764

South
♠ AJ5
♥ AK8652
♦ 3
♣ KJ3

West <i>Yoshida</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Geller</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♥
Closed Room			
West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Miura</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Kubo</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	1♥
2♦	3♠	Pass	Rdbl
All Pass			4♠

Bareket's double allowed N/S to identify their 5-3 spade fit, far from easy to do otherwise (though if Zack had produced an intellectual 2♣ rebid rather than jumping to 3♥, that might have done the trick). In 4♠ Miura won the club lead in hand, took a spade finesse and then led a diamond to the king and ace. Back came a club. When declarer finessed, West's discard was hugely revealing. Declarer now cashed dummy's club and led a top heart, losing just two trumps but pitching his diamond on the master heart and ruffing a club in dummy.

When Geller led a low club against 3NT Barel let it ride, sensibly hoping to win the trick cheaply or force the queen. When the 10 appeared Barel won his ace and led a spade to the ace as a safety play perhaps. Regardless of that, he was in a virtually hopeless position as the cards lay. He tried the ♠J next and got some bad news, then the ♥A getting worse news. He ended with just his eight tricks: two spades, two hearts, one diamond and three clubs. While he might have done better double dummy it is hard to say he did anything seriously wrong. More than half the field went down in game here, but TBA had 10 imps to lead 12-6. With the imps having gone +2, -6, +10 on Boards 1-3 would the the fourth deal throw up -14?

Bd: 4
Dir: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ KQ53
♥ ---
♦ J8532
♣ A942

West
♠ 984
♥ AQ10862
♦ K76
♣ 5

East
♠ A107
♥ 543
♦ A94
♣ KQJ3

South
♠ J62
♥ KJ97
♦ Q10
♣ 10876

West <i>Yoshida</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Geller</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Miura</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Kubo</i>
2♦(♥/♠)	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

It is rare to see a pass of a penalty double at the two level where careful defense is necessary to hold declarer to ten tricks. Kubo did find the spade lead and declarer won to lead a heart to the ten, then a club to his king when Miura ducked in desperation. Now declarer led a top club to pitch a spade and ended up with +1070. In the other room Yoshida opened a disciplined weak two to reach an excellent game on any lead but a top spade. Alas for him, Barel put the ♠K on the table and Yoshida took the second spade to lead a heart to the queen, as who would not? That meant not 14 but 15 imps for Israel and our sequence was broken.

Both tables then attempted a reasonable game, down when a finesse through the stronger hand lost. TBA picked up a vulnerable undertrick to reduce the margin to 21-15. Barel responded by taking a restrained view of his 21 count after a preempt in third seat to his right, stopping in 2NT (facing a three-count) as opposed to 3NT down two in the other room. Alas, he misjudged the play to flatten the board at -100; still 21-15 to Israel.

Bd: 7
Dir: South
Vul: Both

North
♠ AQ10
♥ J5
♦ 109764
♣ A96

West
♠ K754
♥ 3
♦ QJ83
♣ Q1084

East
♠ J9
♥ K98764
♦ K5
♣ 753

South
♠ 8632
♥ AQ102
♦ A2
♣ KJ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Zack</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Kubo</i>
			1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Where Bareket led a heart around to the jack it was relatively easy for Miura to win and return a heart to the ten (Lengy pitching a spade), then lead a spade to the ten and jack. Now declarer was in position to take three spades, three hearts and three minor-suit winners, so the return of the ♦K merely speeded things up and cost an overtrick. In the other room Yoshida's disciplined singleton heart lead left declarer far less well placed. Zack won his ♥10 and played ace and another diamond to Geller, who exited with the ♥K, pinning dummy's jack. At this point Yoshida was forced to release a black card. When he discarded a spade, (declarer having in principle denied four spades) Zack led a spade to the ten and jack and Geller did not clear hearts, instead returning the ♣7 to the ten and ace. Zack gave up a diamond and Yoshida cashed his diamonds to play a spade. It looks as though Zack went against the odds when he rejected the finesse, instead winning the sA and cashing his diamond before take a club finesse for down two. If East had the ♠K, he would surely have cleared hearts and waited to get on lead with his second spade honor. Then again, how likely was it that East had only a 7-count for his overcall? I think I prefer the former argument to the latter but regardless, TBA had 13 imps and led 28-21.

The field was split equally between those making game and those going down.

Bd: 8	North	
Dir: West	♠ 8	
Vul: None	♥ A1064	
	♦ 872	
	♣ J8765	
West		East
♠ A103		♠ Q7642
♥ 92		♥ K53
♦ 9654		♦ AJ10
♣ Q1092		♣ K4
	South	
	♠ KJ95	
	♥ QJ87	
	♦ KQ3	
	♣ A3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Geller</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
2♠	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Kubo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Kubo's 3NT looks a trifle sporting. The defenders led spades, won the ♥K and continued spades, then shifted to clubs to set up six tricks. That was +100, but how would Geller fare in his delicate contract of 2♠x? Zack, maybe steaming after the last deal, led a heart to trick one. Geller scored the ♥K as Barel encouraged the lead and advanced the ♣K. Zack won and shifted to diamonds – which looks fatal. Geller won, cleared diamonds, and now even though Zack could overruff the third club, he apparently had only one trump trick to come. Not so. Here's the position:

	♠ 8	
	♥ 106	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J8	
West		East
♠ A103		♠ Q764
♥ ---		♥ 3
♦ 96		♦ 10
♣ 10		♣ ---
	South	
	♠ KJ9	
	♥ J8	
	♦ 3	
	♣ ---	

Zack exited with a diamond and declarer could do no better than win and lead a trump up. Zack split his honors, and with the lead in dummy declarer could not prevent the ♠9 from scoring a trick unless he conceded a heart at the end. That was a hairy 5 imps to Israel, trailing 26-28.

TBA promptly regained those imps when a light but normal opening bid by Barel helped his opponents stay low and find the right strain, while in the other room an inelegant sequence saw Lengy-Bareket lose their 4-4 major fit and play 2NT down one with a combined 21 HCP.

Geller responded by opening light on the next deal with rather similar results. That got him to 2NT on a combined 22 HCP with the cards lying in very hostile fashion. But after a sequence of unfortunate events on defense, Geller was allowed to bring home his

contract for +120 while his teammates, against silent opponents, escaped for -100 in their partscore. It was 34-26 now.

Israel picked up an overtrick imp on the next deal, but the match came down to the last deal with TBA in front by 7 imps.

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ 72
 Vul: None ♥ 1062
 ♦ 7652
 ♣ Q853

West	East
♠ 10854	♠ AKQ963
♥ A3	♥ J875
♦ AKQ103	♦ J8
♣ 76	♣ A

South
 ♠ J
 ♥ KQ94
 ♦ 94
 ♣ KJ10942

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Barel	Geller	Zack
		1♠	2♣
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Miura	Bareket	Kubo
		1♠	2♣
2NT(♠)	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦(0/3)	Pass
5♥(♠Q?)	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Before anyone reaches for the “Comedy of Errors” cliché I suppose we can be confident that neither East nor West at either table was laughing at the end of the deal. I would have thought Bareket might have bid 5NT rather than 6♠; that would have denied a king but suggested suitability and in context wasn’t that sixth trump enough? Equally from West’s perspective his diamonds were a great source of tricks but if he was facing a 5-3-4-1 shape maybe they belonged in 7♦?

It mattered not. The auction from the other room never got to grips with the deal at all, and while you can decide amongst yourselves which of the final two calls you like least, the 11 imps gained by Israel gave them a narrow win, 38-34.

Faites vos jeux, mesdame et messieurs. How many pairs do you think bid the grand slam...and how many missed slam altogether? Five pairs bid the grand, 21 missed a slam. Maybe it is harder than it looks.



“And when he bid it anyways I just grabbed him around the neck like this...”



“I already ate mine. Can I just have a little bite of yours?”

Match Four: China Open vs SARA

by Barry Rigal



Chen Y



Teramoto



Sasahira



Shi



Tanaka



Chen G



Zhuang



Yokoi

We are accustomed to seeing SARA advance to the later stages of this event, or at least be in serious contention to do so. The China Open team includes many regulars on the Chinese national team, so a high standard match could be expected.

Bd: 17 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 832
 Vul: None ♥ AQ432
 ♦ J6
 ♣ Q105

West
 ♠ K7654
 ♥ 109
 ♦ K52
 ♣ KJ6

East
 ♠ A10
 ♥ 65
 ♦ A109743
 ♣ A83

South
 ♠ QJ9
 ♥ KJ87
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ 9742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Sasahira's 3♥ might be attractive in theory but her partner's earlier silence made it exceptionally dangerous. As it was, the defenders had seven easy tricks but neither defender quite had a double — did

they? With diamonds and spades breaking so easily there were 12 tricks for Yokoi unless the defense cashed their heart winners. When Zhuang led a top spade declarer drew trump, ruffed out spades, then used the ♦5 as an entry to cash the spades and set up clubs for 12 tricks; +170. That gave SARA a 1-imp lead.

Nobody bid the E/W cards to 5♦; three pairs were allowed to make 3NT while one pair brought home 4♠.

Bd: 18 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 8
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK6
 ♦ Q54
 ♣ AQJ432

West
 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AK10873
 ♣ 1065

East
 ♠ Q10653
 ♥ QJ109543
 ♦ 9
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ A942
 ♥ 72
 ♦ J62
 ♣ K987

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		4♥	All Pass

Both pairs in China Open found a remarkably bad moment to go quietly. Teramoto claimed his nine tricks immediately in 3NT, and that meant the result

of 4♥ was now almost irrelevant. Zhuang selected the ♠A as his opening salvo, and not surprisingly couldn't read the position at trick one. He shifted to clubs and declarer had his ten tricks a few moments later. That was 14 imps, making it 15-0, SARA.

Four pairs opened 4♥ and were allowed to play there; the Datum was N/S+410, indicating that comfortably more than half the field bid and made game their way.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ Q84
 Vul: E/W ♥ 104
 ♦ KJ1073
 ♣ Q54

West
 ♠ J2
 ♥ A982
 ♦ 65
 ♣ 98632

East
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ QJ653
 ♦ Q82
 ♣ KJ

South
 ♠ AK965
 ♥ K7
 ♦ A94
 ♣ A107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Chen Y led a diamond against 4♠ and declarer claimed her 11 tricks without being seriously challenged. Tanaka led a club against 4♠ (yes, underleading the ♥A might have been tempting). Zhuang played low from dummy, won his ace, drew trumps, and exited in clubs. When East won his ♣K he took his side's heart winners and left declarer to find the ♦Q. The percentage play seems to be to assume the hand with short clubs has the ♦Q. Zhuang went the other way and SARA had another 11 imps to lead 26-0.

Only nine pairs went down in game but precisely one pair went to the other extreme, bidding and making slam on the lead of the ♥A. Step forward...drum roll...Ben Lam and Mick Yeung of Slime Squad. With that kind of good fortune you should invest in the lottery tonight.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q986532
 Vul: Both ♥ ---
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K9764

West
 ♠ A4
 ♥ AKJ8
 ♦ J943
 ♣ AJ3

East
 ♠ J7
 ♥ Q1042
 ♦ Q7652
 ♣ 82

South
 ♠ K10
 ♥ 97653
 ♦ AK10
 ♣ Q105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
1♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
1♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♣	3♦	4♠

You can understand why Sasahira didn't raise to 4♠ initially, and it seemed illogical to do so at the second turn. Sasahira cashed a top diamond and shifted to the ♠K, eventually collecting just 100 when Teramoto won his ♠Q and played a third spade for the ruff and discard. In the other room Chen G got both suits into play at a convenient level and Zhuang had no compunction about driving to game. Chen G wrapped up 11 tricks and China Open had reduced the margin to 26-11.

Not surprisingly the N/S scores here ranged from the mundane +790 and 990 to the more eccentric. Kim Sun Young and Chang Eun Kyung recorded +1130 from 3♠x ("sorry, teammates, we missed game") while they were outscored on defense by Yasuo Takeda and Subba Ravipudi of MMC who defended 5♥x for 1400.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ 9762
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q8
 ♦ 86
 ♣ AQJ63

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 53
 ♦ AKQJ532
 ♣ K94

East
 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ AKJ764
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 1072

South
 ♠ AK1084
 ♥ 1092
 ♦ 974
 ♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Dbl	3♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♠
Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Zhuang came in over 1♥ whereas Sasahira stayed discreetly silent. It somehow seems illogical that the competition should have helped his opponents to a less terrible spot. That said, 4♥ might have gone down 200 on an unlikely club lead. After a top spade lead and club shift the defenders took the first four tricks but declarer maneuvered the rest. Teramoto led a spade against 5♦, Sasahira shifted to clubs, and again the defense took the first four tricks. It was 28-11 now, Sasahira.

Were you wondering if anyone would make game here? Good question. 3NT was allowed to come home ten times from East, often making +520. Was that enough for a top at pairs? No way! To understand what a good result looks like, ask Rao Jinrong, playing with Shao Zijian for Shanghai Yitong. They bid and made the obvious 6♦ on a low trump lead.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ J10985
Vul: E/W	♥ A8
	♦ KJ76
	♣ 95

West
♠ 43
♥ K95
♦ AQ10952
♣ QJ

East
♠ K76
♥ 10
♦ 843
♣ AK10732

South
♠ AQ2
♥ QJ76432
♦ ---
♣ 864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		1♣	3♥

3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♦	Dbl	2♥	3♥
3NT	Dbl	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Zhuang ploughed a lone furrow here, bidding hearts till someone lowered the boom. Right he was, in a sense, since partner provided just the right values for him to have some play for his game. But Tanaka led a top club and shifted to hearts, then took the next club to play a second heart. That meant that declarer was left with both a heart and a club loser eventually for down one. In the other room the defenders might have done spectacularly well against 3NT after the lead of the ♠J and a spade continuation. Had Sasahira unblocked spades and shifted to a low heart she would surely have taken the first 12 tricks on defense. But she left spades blocked and shifted to a top heart at trick three, thus turning a sure 300 into 100. Still, 5 imps through to make it 32-11, now.

Three or four pairs brought home a doubled partscore or game in hearts here, while precisely one pair made 3NT from the West seat on a trusting ♥A lead and continuation. Soh Siew Luwie and Kelvin Ong were the successful pair for team SG.

Bd: 24	North
Dlr: West	♠ 2
Vul: None	♥ Q76
	♦ A10872
	♣ AQ83

West
♠ AQJ7
♥ A98543
♦ 4
♣ KJ

East
♠ K986
♥ J
♦ K93
♣ 107654

South
♠ 10543
♥ K102
♦ QJ65
♣ 92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both tables reached 4♠ by broadly similar routes. Sasahira led a low diamond and the defenders played two rounds of that suit. Shi ruffed the second diamond in dummy (which looks strange to me), ruffed a heart to hand, then tried a club to the king, assuming that the only reason South could have for not leading clubs was that she had the ace. Teramoto cashed his side's club winners and got out with a third diamond. When Shi advanced the ♣10 Sasahira pitched her ♥K. Now declarer could lead a

trump to dummy and ruff a heart high but the 4-1 trump break was insurmountable and he had to concede trick 13.

Yokoi received the same lead after a less informative auction. Here, though, Chen G shifted to a heart, a curious choice. Yokoi ruffed a heart to hand, pitched a club on the $\diamond K$, led a trump to dummy, ruffed a heart high, then ran the trumps and hearts. He had to concede the last trick but that was it.

Only a handful of pairs brought home game here.

Bd: 25 North
 Dlr: North \spadesuit QJ9653
 Vul: E/W \heartsuit 764
 \diamond J
 \clubsuit 654

West
 \spadesuit AK42
 \heartsuit KQ5
 \diamond Q93
 \clubsuit Q82

East
 \spadesuit 8
 \heartsuit J82
 \diamond AK872
 \clubsuit AK97

South
 \spadesuit 107
 \heartsuit A1093
 \diamond 10654
 \clubsuit J103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
	2 \spadesuit	Dbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	5 \diamond	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	2 \diamond (\heartsuit / \spadesuit)	3 \diamond	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In 3NT Tanaka won the spade lead, knocked out the $\heartsuit A$, pitched a club from dummy on the second spade and when diamonds did not break he had only 10 tricks. Not that it mattered given the result from the other room. Was 4NT quantitative and did 5 \diamond showed extras there? Sasahira won the heart lead and shifted to spades. Declarer won and led a diamond up, then tried to get as much of a count on the hand as possible. He cashed three hearts and two clubs ending in dummy, then led a diamond back to the nine and claimed a well-earned +1440. Those 13 imps made the running score 43-25.

Just seven pairs attempted slam, and only three of them actually made it. I guess we were at the right place at the right time. Well done Cao Ji-Zhou Junyu of LCG and Yoko Nenohi-Ysuyo Iida of Katsumata for hitting the jackpot.

Bd: 26 North
 Dlr: East \spadesuit J86
 Vul: Both \heartsuit 94
 \diamond AQ954
 \clubsuit 652

West
 \spadesuit A752
 \heartsuit Q1075
 \diamond K2
 \clubsuit 873

East
 \spadesuit 104
 \heartsuit K6
 \diamond 108763
 \clubsuit K1094

South
 \spadesuit KQ93
 \heartsuit AJ832
 \diamond J
 \clubsuit AQJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 \spadesuit
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Chen G</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		Pass	1 \clubsuit (16+)
Pass	1 \diamond (0-7)	Pass	2 \heartsuit
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass	

The natural auction from the Open Room saw Teramoto treated to a diamond lead to the jack, king and ace. He took a club finesse, led the $\spadesuit K$, ducked, followed by a spade to the $\spadesuit J$, and was happy to see the ten fall. Then he repeated the club finesse, played a third spade, and after a slight mis-defense scored an extra diamond trick in the ending for +630. That was worth 13 imps when the strong club sequence saw Zhuang forced to rebid 2 \heartsuit (natural and limited) since 1 \heartsuit would have promised 19-plus. Now no one could identify stoppers and 4 \heartsuit was an inelegant spot. After a club lead declarer could not avoid three trump losers and a spade and actually ended down 200. It was 56-25, SARA, and the set finished 57-26.

That might imply the last four deals were dull. Not so. In the interests of charity we will gloss over the defense to 3NT reached at one table with a holding of the stiff king of hearts in dummy facing $\heartsuit 532$ where the defenders led the suit to the king and ace, but still couldn't take their five tricks. And the last deal saw one pair struggle in an ugly 4-3 fit in game but that was a push against the even uglier partscore in a 6-0 fit splitting 5-2. Details may be forthcoming if the ransom isn't paid, though.

22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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



Alert!

Teams are strongly encouraged submit their line up at least 10 minutes before the start of each match. Teams habitually failing to do may be subject to penalty.

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