



YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 3

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Day Two of the 2019 Yokohama Cup

At the end of Day Two, the top qualifiers are led by team PD Times (Fu Zhong, Nie Weiping, Dong Lidang, Liu Jing, Chen Ji, Patrick Huang, npc Li Jie) with 110.03 VPs, followed closely by team Hackett (Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, Diego Brenner) with 110.02 VPs, team CHINA WOMEN (Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, npc Zou Kai) with 105.56 VPs and team CHINA OPEN (Chen Yunlong, Zhuang Zejun, Shi Haojun, Ju Chuancheng, Chen Gang, Shi Zhengjun, npc Gao Yang, npc Wang Xiaojing) with 103.32 VPs. The other teams currently in qualifying position are Soaring Shou, SARA, XYZ and LCG, all with VP totals near 100. But that is not the entire story. There are at least 10 other teams with VP totals in the 90s and as we've learned from past experience, anything can happen on Day Three. The complete Day Two rankings are shown below; individual results for Matches 5-8 may be found on page 6.

Yokohama Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	PD Times.	110.03	19	Shanghai Yitong.	88.61	37	SLIME SQUAD.	71.61
2	Hackett.	110.02	20	YENOVA.	88.28	38	Mistral.	71.39
3	CHINA WOMEN.	105.56	21	LEONG.	87.02	39	China Hongyu.	70.89
4	CHINA OPEN.	103.32	22	LU DONG.	83.9	40	Poseidon.	67.66
5	Soaring Shou.	100.99	23	NANIWADA.	80.71	41	PS-bridge.	65.25
6	SARA.	100.64	24	Voler.	80.33	42	The Charlie's Angels.	65.05
7	XYZ.	99.02	25	HOSA.	79.85	43	Ace.	63.61
8	LCG.	96.24	26	Japan Senior.	79.24	44	Katsumata.	62.37
9	Air-TRF.	95.66	27	CECIL CHAN BRIDGE.	78.8	45	S.K.	60.37
10	Shanghai Jingfan.	95.51	28	MMC.	77.77	46	LAS FLORES.	58.19
11	YBM.	93.84	29	C.K. Juniors.	77.32	47	Tiger.	58.12
12	Poker Bear.	93.63	30	Seoul.	76.22	48	Shanghai Qiaoyou.	57.16
13	ISRAEL.	92.66	31	Morimura.	75.17	49	Japan Youth.	57.1
14	TPE-NK.	92.05	32	Wonderful Life.	74.69	50	BT Girls.	55.4
15	INDIA.	91.04	33	a-chanzu.	74.65	51	DARKHORSE.	54.58
16	China Dalian Aoxin.	90.68	34	Circle.	74.32	52	HOSHI.	48.34
17	TBA.	90.48	35	MAX SPEED.	72.71	53	Golden Dear.	0
18	SG.	90.33	36	Takahashi.	71.62			

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 SARA (37) vs XYZ (28)
and LCG (29) vs Shanghai Jingfan (25)

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 Shita, Mio Manki
53	Japan Youth:	Yusaku Nishimura, Rai Tanaka, Sanekata Sonoike, Kenji Jindai, Song Yihan, Yusuke Serikawa



“...and you were just this tall when you took your first finesse.”

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

Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 5				Match 6				Match 7				Match 8			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	36	67	19.99	59.1	40	41	13.96	73.06	39	63	17.91	90.97	15	53	17.49	110.02
2	40	39	12.97	58.38	34	32	13.23	71.61	28	19	3.28	74.89	12	45	17.77	92.66
3	20	51	19.08	68.79	7	13	8.13	76.92	6	34	12.44	89.36	25	33	13.96	103.32
4	12	71	19.56	76.1	15	38	14.85	90.95	21	30	9.67	100.62	24	21	4.94	105.56
5	23	35	16.38	52.75	22	23	6.28	59.03	40	45	16.55	75.58	47	33	15.46	91.04
6	17	46	18.04	63.1	45	43	12.97	76.07	3	26	7.56	83.63	34	15	8.42	92.05
7	37	21	7.56	64.76	3	19	11.87	76.63	24	25	0.72	77.35	20	15	9.67	87.02
8	52	49	17.34	42.15	43	25	14.85	57	12	18	4.74	61.74	40	16	10.97	72.71
9	28	16	3.62	46.25	26	26	3.28	49.53	49	20	4.74	54.27	36	52	17.34	71.61
10	14	11	0	22.47	32	31	13.72	36.19	48	51	15.26	51.45	53	30	12.16	63.61
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	4	20	0.44	54.46	39	13	2.37	56.83	8	38	15.26	72.09	2	10	2.23	74.32
13	42	26	7.56	36.96	19	10	6.77	43.73	46	52	16.55	60.28	17	40	17.49	77.77
14	10	70	20	41.68	42	19	3.45	45.13	18	27	5.15	50.28	52	19	7.84	58.12
15	21	46	17.34	77.15	4	20	5.15	82.3	37	18	9.03	91.33	1	20	2.51	93.84
16	29	20	8.13	50.4	20	0	1.13	51.53	17	36	13.72	65.25	49	20	10.97	76.22
17	6	9	1.96	47.24	30	16	4.34	51.58	16	23	6.28	57.86	13	7	2.51	60.37
18	25	1	1.13	31.94	33	36	13.72	45.66	14	45	14.85	60.51	43	52	18.29	78.8
19	51	25	5.36	38.94	13	21	13.23	52.17	23	34	16.88	69.05	41	30	11.28	80.33
20	3	5	0.92	50.38	16	44	18.87	69.25	31	36	9.03	78.28	7	16	10.33	88.61
21	15	14	2.66	65.79	37	20	12.16	77.95	4	31	10.33	88.28	29	35	12.71	100.99
22	41	33	10.97	51.17	5	36	13.72	64.89	30	52	18.76	83.65	28	13	7.03	90.68
23	5	9	3.62	40.87	36	43	12.71	53.58	19	5	3.12	56.7	51	34	14.19	70.89
24	27	32	12.97	61.5	31	28	14.19	75.69	7	73	19.28	94.97	4	40	15.06	110.03
25	18	45	18.87	50.09	49	62	19.38	69.47	45	77	20	89.47	3	19	6.04	95.51
26	53	41	16.03	44.07	9	54	16.72	60.79	34	20	2.81	63.6	30	27	13.72	77.32
27	24	22	7.03	53.54	29	15	4.74	58.28	42	23	10	68.28	44	68	20	88.28
28	9	42	16.38	60.3	50	24	9.03	69.33	2	47	16.72	86.05	22	23	12.97	99.02
29	16	26	11.87	53.86	27	35	15.26	69.12	38	73	19.83	88.95	21	26	7.29	96.24
30	35	30	10.66	48.21	17	38	15.66	63.87	22	9	1.24	65.11	26	14	6.28	71.39
31	38	22	11.58	62	24	13	5.81	67.81	20	39	10.97	78.78	35	34	14.85	93.63
32	48	42	11.28	24.72	10	18	6.28	31	53	27	6.77	37.77	33	40	17.63	55.4
33	44	31	3.79	36.59	18	23	6.28	42.87	52	26	9.34	52.21	32	6	2.37	54.58
34	39	13	9.67	54.79	2	21	6.77	61.56	26	51	17.19	78.75	6	20	11.58	90.33
35	30	28	9.34	48.43	41	45	15.26	63.69	44	48	15.06	78.75	31	16	5.15	83.9
36	1	11	0.01	39.37	23	34	7.29	46.66	43	25	7.84	54.5	9	20	2.66	57.16
37	7	29	12.44	69.12	21	13	7.84	76.96	15	21	10.97	87.93	50	24	12.71	100.64
38	31	17	8.42	59.07	47	26	6.77	65.84	29	19	0.17	66.01	42	30	13.23	79.24
39	34	14	10.33	55.28	12	47	17.63	72.91	1	27	2.09	75	45	44	17.04	90.48
40	2	29	7.03	53.1	1	27	6.04	59.14	5	18	3.45	62.59	8	13	9.03	71.62
41	22	30	9.03	49.05	35	25	4.74	53.79	51	46	17.34	71.13	19	26	8.72	79.85
42	13	34	12.44	41.85	14	46	16.55	58.4	27	23	10	68.4	38	19	6.77	75.17
43	47	4	1.96	43.35	8	7	5.15	48.5	36	32	12.16	60.66	18	13	1.71	62.37
44	33	56	16.21	49.75	51	23	12.97	62.72	35	29	4.94	67.66	27	6	0	67.66
45	50	17	11.87	64.66	6	33	7.03	71.69	25	8	0	71.69	39	14	2.96	74.65
46	49	15	0.35	30.43	53	40	14.64	45.07	13	25	3.45	48.52	48	35	9.67	58.19
47	43	41	18.04	59.49	38	37	13.23	72.72	50	17	3.45	76.17	5	12	4.54	80.71
48	32	38	8.72	26.24	52	35	7.03	33.27	10	31	4.74	38.01	46	36	10.33	48.34
49	46	67	19.65	49.78	25	13	0.62	50.4	9	40	15.26	65.66	16	17	9.03	74.69
50	45	11	8.13	60.85	28	27	10.97	71.82	47	44	16.55	88.37	37	15	7.29	95.66
51	19	42	14.64	49.75	44	13	7.03	56.78	41	14	2.66	59.44	23	19	5.81	65.25
52	8	17	2.66	29.26	48	45	12.97	42.23	33	28	10.66	52.89	14	26	12.16	65.05
53	26	17	3.97	30.67	46	23	5.36	36.03	32	38	13.23	49.26	10	23	7.84	57.1

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

Match Five: Soaring Shou vs YBM

by Barry Rigal



Shih



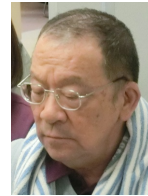
Tian



Wang



Shi



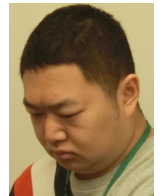
Yeh



Li



Zhang



Dong

Both tables reached a no-play game on the first deal of the set; is there a sensible way to avoid it?

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K108
 ♥ AQ10732
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 743

West
 ♠ J754
 ♥ KJ8
 ♦ Q84
 ♣ Q106

East
 ♠ A963
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AK105
 ♣ KJ98

South
 ♠ Q2
 ♥ 964
 ♦ J9763
 ♣ A52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
	1♥	Dbf	2♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Wang in the Open Room had a normal 3♠ bid. I suppose Shih might assume wasted heart values but maybe partner has a different hand type than that. 3NT should be natural and to play once the opponents bid, even if you play serious or non-serious 3NT. But Wang wasn't going to sit for 3NT with a singleton heart. It was somewhat harder for Dong to predict the wasted heart values in the Closed Room but if partner passed an invitational 3♠ bid would you ever miss game? I think not.

In our other match both Norths sensibly opened 2♥ — as who would not? In one room for Leong, Bauke Muller doubled and de Wijs bid 2♠ for +140 while in the other room Eric Leong as South raised his partner's 2♥ opening to 3♥, then doubled 3NT to avoid the heart lead. After a club lead declarer took one spade and three tricks in each minor for -300; 10 imps to Leong.

The second board was also a push as both E/W pairs bought the hand in sensible low-level partscores. Neither was cold but each was a favorite to make and the favorable lie of the opponents' cards meant that each came home without any excitement.

The third board generated a swing in slightly unexpected fashion:

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ A10
 ♥ A64
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ K10542

West
 ♠ 952
 ♥ K52
 ♦ K964
 ♣ Q96

East
 ♠ KJ43
 ♥ Q9873
 ♦ 752
 ♣ J

South
 ♠ Q876
 ♥ J10
 ♦ AJ3
 ♣ A873

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
			1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
			1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Yeh reached 3NT the “wrong” way up and ducked two rounds of hearts to win the third. Now surely restricted choice in clubs is worth considering. The alternative of playing clubs from the top and taking the diamond finesse later is so close to the first line that maybe it is more about table presence than anything else. Both lines look like they represent winning odds of about two chances in three.

Chen Yeh played for the combined shot, ending two down when neither suit behaved. That looked an excellent position for Li, after a diamond lead saw declarer win cheaply, then play ace and another club. When he played for the drop (wanting to avoid a second diamond coming through?) he left himself (per BBO) without a club re-entry to hand by keeping the three in hand and the 10-5 in dummy. West won the third club, East discouraging in hearts, and shifted to a high spade. Now declarer missed the point. Had he believed the defenders and won the ♠A to play another spade he could not have been prevented from scoring two spades, two diamonds, four clubs and a heart. When he ducked the first spade, East took the king, a diamond came back, and now the club blockage prevented declarer from taking the ♠A and coming to hand in clubs to cash the ♠Q. Li won the ♦A and cashed the black winners but the defenders were able to pitch spades and keep red-suit winners and the ♠Q withered on the vine for down one.

With the datum at 200, just over half the N/S field bid and made game here.

Having dodged one bullet, YBM started calling the shots themselves.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ ---
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ62
	♦ A764
	♣ QJ76

West	East
♠ K10972	♠ AQ864
♥ J73	♥ 54
♦ K93	♦ QJ1085
♣ A10	♣ 2

South
♠ J53
♥ 1098
♦ 2
♣ K98543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

The two Norths took remarkably contrasting views here. Tian’s pass of 4♠ looks decidedly pessimistic, while Yeh’s 5♣ was somewhat committal to clubs as opposed to diamonds — but he scored a spectacular goal in the process. 5♣ was cold for 12 tricks while 4♠ could only have been defeated if the defenders took their ruff. Tian led out three rounds of hearts immediately. Shi ruffed high and negotiated trumps for +620 and 15 imps.

Eric Leong’s +620 in the other match on the N/S cards was good enough to...lose 13 imps for SARA. Teramoto as North doubled a 2♠ opening from De Wijs, then doubled the raise to 4♠. Sasahira bid her clubs, then when the opponents bid on to 5♠ she tried 6♣, and that was a cool +1370.

Only three N/S pairs bid slam though one pair collected +1050 from 5♥x. In the clash of the juniors, Zhu Chenyu-Wu Liangkai for CK Juniors put one over Japan Youth by collecting +1540 from 6♣x.

On the next deal Yeh demonstrated that it was a bidder’s game again.

Bd: 5	North
Dlr: North	♠ 2
Vul: N/S	♥ J108
	♦ K10982
	♣ A765

West	East
♠ AQJ743	♠ 10
♥ 52	♥ AQ6
♦ 4	♦ QJ75
♣ QJ92	♣ K10843

South
♠ K9865
♥ K9743
♦ A63
♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♣
2♠(♣)	3♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
	2♦	Pass	3♦
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The (natural and weak) 2♦ opening seemed to make it impossible for E/W to reach clubs, but might West have introduced that suit at his second turn to speak? 4♠ on a diamond lead and continuation saw Shi ruff and play on clubs. South ruffed in to play another diamond and Shi ended up losing two aces and three trumps for down 100. Meanwhile, 5♣x on a heart lead (and who can blame South here?) saw East win cheaply and finesse in spades to lead a diamond to the queen and ace. Back came a heart and East proceeded to cross-ruff, starting with the diamonds. North pitched a heart on a spade lead from dummy but that didn't stop Wang from ruffing the heart loser at trick 10 with a high trump. All North scored was the ♣A and YBM had +550 and 12 imps, to lead 27-2.

Three N/S pairs recorded +670 from 2♥x; a handful of pairs bid to 5♣ as E/W, quite a few of them doubled.

Flushed with success, Chen Yeh had a third hand in a row on which to exercise judgment.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 9862		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q76		
	♦ K1085		
	♣ 108		
West		East	
♠ KJ104		♠ 3	
♥ K109		♥ 854	
♦ Q96		♦ 743	
♣ Q93		♣ KJ7654	
	South		
	♠ AQ75		
	♥ AJ32		
	♦ AJ2		
	♣ A2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dbl	3♦
Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

As you can see, 3NT is not a thing of beauty but that is at double-dummy and not single-dummy. Shi led the ♠J against 3NT. Declarer won in hand and led out a small heart. When Shi won and optimistically continued with a low spade declarer had her ninth trick early, and set up a diamond for her 10th. After a club lead 4♠ was already going to be a struggle, even against a normal trump break. The defenders scored a club and a heart at once and eventually took three trump tricks for a further 11 imps, and a 38-2 lead.

Only seven pairs made the notrump game here, but two pairs made 4♠ on a heart lead. Even if you find the ♦Q the defenders ought to be able to take four tricks in the form of three trumps and a heart...shouldn't they?

Curiously, on the next deal the situation was reversed when YBM bid to a delicate game on a 4-4 major-suit fit while 3NT was far better. This time everything broke and declarer emerged with 11 tricks in 4♥ to push the board.

YBM rubbed their opponents' noses in it on the next deal too.

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ ---		
Vul: None	♥ A42		
	♦ Q852		
	♣ KJ8752		
West		East	
♠ Q9652		♠ 10743	
♥ 1065		♥ KQ97	
♦ A963		♦ J10	
♣ 10		♣ A94	
	South		
	♠ AKJ8		
	♥ J83		
	♦ K74		
	♣ Q63		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Yalan Zhang's 3NT was something of a bow at a venture, but on a spade lead she was well placed — though not cold, since her communications to cash her nine tricks were not great. Zhang opted for simplicity. She cashed her three spades at once and went after clubs, hoping the defenders would not be

able to take more than two spades and two aces. The more I think about it the more I like that line, since after all when an aggressive West has passed in first seat non-vulnerable, if he has queen-sixth of spades he surely won't have an ace. For the record, at double dummy only a heart lead beats 3NT.

Teramoto-Sasahira bid the notrump game in the other match to gain 10 imps when Rimstedt-Leong played 5♣ down one after East opened 1♥ in third seat there.

Two flat boards followed, though one deal did feature the North player with 12 tricks in his own hand on normal breaks. Both Norths essentially drove to slam without consulting partner and took their 12 winners. The field played slam with the exception of the pair who appear to have played in Exclusion Blackwood. These days there is normally at least one...

Soaring Shou finally scored some more imps when they outbid their counterparts.

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 3
 Vul: None ♥ J10
 ♦ KJ102
 ♣ KQJ1063

West	East
♠ AKJ7542	♠ 96
♥ K7654	♥ Q9832
♦ ---	♦ A75
♣ 7	♣ A42

South
 ♠ Q108
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q98643
 ♣ 985

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Tian</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Li</i>
			Pass
1♠	3♣	Dbl	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
			2♦
2♠	5♦	Dbl	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Shih's jump to 4♥ showed extras but was it really enough? It is hard to say how he might have been able to get his values across. (In an identical position Brian Senior for Hackett cuebid 4♣, then raised 4♥ to 5♥, and Justin Hackett bid the sixth.) In the other room Dong did well to raise 5♥ to 6♥ I think, and after a top club lead declarer could draw trumps and claim. Nicely done, but all the 11 imps did was reduce the final margin in the match to 47-14.

As witness my earlier comment, one pair managed to play 5♦ on the E/W cards. At the other extreme Shi Hagen and Chen Yunlong were doubled in 6♥ for +1210. But pride of place surely goes to Lu Yan of China Women, the only player in the North seat to lead her singleton spade and get the ruff to beat 6♥.

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is the fact that it has never tried to contact us.

Thanks For the Memory

Many of you who were caught up in the chaos-inspired meltdown that occurred on Tuesday when the start of second-round matches was delayed for about 30 minutes due to a "computer malfunction." Well, it can now be told, that malfunction was the result of a recent re-write the JCBL had done of their scoring program, the one that runs events like the Yokohama Cup, Swiss team events, pair games and such. The program keeps track of player/team scores, does matchups and movements, and a host of other tasks. So what happened?

Well, the new program, while it was re-written to enable it to operate in a more sophisticated and speedy manner, also requires more memory to do its chores. In fact, it requires a huge amount of memory to do what it does. Unfortunately, the computer that the new program was running on was not endowed with sufficient memory for the program to operate freely. In fact, the lack of memory ultimately caused the program to crash, which we all experienced as the 30-minute delay between Match One and Match Two on Tuesday. The JCBL wishes to extend its sincere apologies for the error.

So, how did they fix the problem? Simple, really. They went and got another computer with a lot more memory. Once that was done, the little program that could...actually could!

Match Six: YBM vs China Women

by Rich Colker



Zhao



Dawei



Yiyi



Shih



Lu



Liu



Wang



Sun

Does a pair of Yans beat a pair of Chens? With Lu Yan and Liu Yan playing as partners on the China Women team we will refer to them by their family names, Lu and Liu. (Luckily pronunciation does not affect the written word.) Similarly, the two Chens, Dawei and Yiyi, who oppose one another in the Open Room, will be referred to by their given names, Dawei and Yiyi, as well. (Amateur historians should note that YBM includes Sun Ming, a stalwart on the Chinese Womens team for two decades. Those who do not remember history....) Now, our presentation of "The House of Yans and Chens."

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q107
 ♥ AQ1083
 ♦ A102
 ♣ K8

West
 ♠ 632
 ♥ 7
 ♦ KJ63
 ♣ 76542

East
 ♠ 98
 ♥ 9652
 ♦ 984
 ♣ AJ103

South
 ♠ AKJ54
 ♥ KJ4
 ♦ Q75
 ♣ Q9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Dawei	Yiyi	Sun
	1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Lu	Wang	Liu
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In the Open Room Dawei dealt with the classic problem of whether to open 1NT or one-of-a-major with a hand that satisfies the conditions for either by showing his strength rather than his suit. That allowed Sun to gauge the potential of the two hands quite accurately and invite a slam after showing her own five-card major. Dawei wisely evaluated his hand as a non-minimum and accepted, choosing the safer 6♠. That contract was cold on any lead, whereas 6NT would have run into serious trouble after a diamond lead; +980.

In the Closed Room Lu chose to show her hearts and underbid with 1NT on the next round, which convinced Liu that slam would be a stretch with her 16-count facing at most a balanced 15 (and possibly quite a bit less). Lu won the diamond lead, drew trumps, and was soon claiming 12 tricks for +480; 11-0 YBM.

Only two pairs went down in slam here, one in 6NT, one in 7♥. The datum was +860 to N/S.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ A10432
 ♥ Q75
 ♦ J65
 ♣ 94

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ A109843
 ♦ A7
 ♣ K1062

East
 ♠ J96
 ♥ J62
 ♦ K108432
 ♣ A

South
 ♠ KQ87
 ♥ K
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ QJ8753

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Chen D	Chen Y	Sun
		Pass	2♣
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Lu	Wang	Liu
		2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

In the Open Room Sun started with a Precision 2♣ and caught partner with a better-than-expected fit for her four-card side suit. All of that vaulted them to a game which, even though slated for down two, could not be doubled. But that wasn't enough. Zhao-Yiyi did well to get into the auction, locate their nine-card heart fit on half the deck, and find the non-vul vs vul save-that-makes at the five-level for a nifty +650.

In the Closed Room Wang was able to open with a weak 2♦, a rarity in today's game, which blew her opponents out of the auction (and ruined her side's chances for game) when Shih decided to simply raise diamonds rather than bid his six-card heart suit. Liu led the ♥K. Wang won and led a spade to Lu's ace. Lu tried a club but Wang won, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♦A, pitched her remaining spade on the ♣K, and eventually came to 10 tricks for +130. That was 11 imps back to China Women, who had tied the match at 11-all.

The field played game in hearts here.

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQ7654
Vul: E/W	♥ A86
	♦ 43
	♣ A5

West	East
♠ KJ3	♠ 10982
♥ Q10	♥ K2
♦ 98	♦ AQJ105
♣ 876432	♣ Q10
South	
♠ ---	
♥ J97543	
♦ K762	
♣ KJ9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Chen D	Chen Y	Sun
			2♦(♥/♠)
Pass	2NT(F)	Pass	3♣(♥)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Lu	Wang	Liu
			Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass			

Both N/S pairs reached the good heart game, Dawei from the North side in the Open Room and Liu from the South side in the Closed Room. Against Dawei-Sun's unrevealing (and uncontested) auction Yiyi led the ♠10 affording Dawei a second overtrick in the form of an extra spade trick; +480. Shih led the ♦9, partner's suit, against Liu and now only 11 tricks were forthcoming; +450. That was 1 imp to YBM, to retake the lead, 12-11.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ K75
Vul: Both	♥ 873
	♦ A10875
	♣ Q4

West	East
♠ Q9	♠ 10643
♥ 104	♥ J652
♦ K2	♦ J
♣ J987652	♣ AK103
South	
♠ AJ82	
♥ AKQ9	
♦ Q9643	
♣ ---	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Chen D	Chen Y	Sun
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(Str)
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Lu	Wang	Liu
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(Str)
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Both tables began the auction with a strong club and a positive response (natural in the Open Room showing five-plus diamonds, artificial in the Closed Room the exact meaning of which escapes us). Both tables reached the excellent 6♦ (Lu-Liu via a long, artificial sequence that we can't explain) and received club leads. Both declarers ruffed, cashed the ♦A, ruffed North's last club, cashed the top

hearts, ruffed the fourth heart, and endplayed West with the $\diamond K$ for a push at 1370.

The datum here was just +800 to N/S, so both pairs had earned themselves 11 imps in the datum.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North \spadesuit KJ96
 Vul: N/S \heartsuit Q85
 \diamond K764
 \clubsuit 63

West \spadesuit 853 \heartsuit 1062 \diamond Q \clubsuit AK7542	East \spadesuit Q74 \heartsuit AK97 \diamond J852 \clubsuit J10
South \spadesuit A102 \heartsuit J43 \diamond A1093 \clubsuit Q98	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Chen D</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Sun</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 \diamond (1)
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	Pass
2 \clubsuit	2 \diamond	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Liu</i>
All Pass			

Against 2 \diamond Zhao led the $\clubsuit A$, Yiyi unblocking the jack, and switched to the $\heartsuit 6$ to the king. Yiyi cashed the ace, Zhao following with the ten, and switched back to the $\clubsuit 10$, Q, K, 6. Zhao led a third club for Yiyi to ruff and East now exited with a third heart. The defense now had five tricks in the bag and when Sun cashed the $\diamond AK$ that was six. Sun threw Yiyi in with a third trump for the endplay to avoid a second undertrick, but -100 was still 3 imps to China Women, who regained the lead at 14-12.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East \spadesuit A7
 Vul: E/W \heartsuit Q962
 \diamond 64
 \clubsuit Q10762

West \spadesuit 109642 \heartsuit KJ8 \diamond AQ8 \clubsuit A8	East \spadesuit 83 \heartsuit A543 \diamond KJ72 \clubsuit J54
South \spadesuit KQJ5 \heartsuit 107 \diamond 10953 \clubsuit K93	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Chen D</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Sun</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \spadesuit	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Against 2 \spadesuit In the Open Room Dawei led the $\diamond 6$. Zhao would have done best to win in hand and play on trumps, hoping to lose three or four trump tricks and possibly a heart (if the finesse for the queen lost). Instead she played dummy's jack followed by a heart to the jack. Dawei won and continued diamonds. Zhao won in hand and tried to cash the hearts. When Sun ruffed the third round and returned a diamond for Dawei to ruff, Zhao was in big trouble. She had already lost two spades and a heart, and still had to lose at least three more trumps. Plus, with the third round of both red suits gone, she could no longer get to dummy to pitch her club loser on the fourth diamond. She finished down two, -200.

Against 1NT in the Closed Room Liu led the $\diamond 10$. Wang won the ace, cashed the queen, crossed to hand with a third diamond and took the losing heart finesse. Lu led back a low club to the nine and ace and now Wang was forced to cash out for +90; still 7 imps to YBM, who retook the lead, 19-14.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South \spadesuit A62
 Vul: Both \heartsuit QJ97
 \diamond A1075
 \clubsuit AQ

West \spadesuit KJ53 \heartsuit A10 \diamond J9 \clubsuit K10854	East \spadesuit 1097 \heartsuit K42 \diamond Q842 \clubsuit 732
South \spadesuit Q84 \heartsuit 8653 \diamond K63 \clubsuit J96	

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Chen D</i>	<i>Chen Y</i>	<i>Sun</i>
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			Pass
1 \clubsuit	1NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room Yiyi led the ♣3 to the 9, 10 and Q. Dawei ducked a diamond around to Zhao, won the club return, cashed the two top diamonds ending in dummy, and led a heart to the 10, Q and K. Yiyi cashed the fourth diamond and switched to the ♠10, 4, J, A. Now, when Dawei led the ♥J to the king, Zhao claimed for down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Wang led the ♠10 to the Q, K and 2. Shih returned a spade to the 9 and Wang continued the suit. Lu exited with the ♥Q to the ace and Shih cashed the last spade before getting out with the ♦J, which Lu rode around to dummy's king. Another heart set up two tricks in that suit for Lu and in addition Wang was endplayed to lead into one of Lu's tenaces for her seventh trick. That was +90 and 7 imps back to China Women, who had regained the lead yet again at 21-19 in a seesaw match that was threatening to challenge the teeter-totter record.

Kudos to Toby Curtis of Air-TRF who reached and made 3NT here as North — and on a club lead, yet!

Bd: 24
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North	♠ AK92
	♥ K7
	♦ 1062
	♣ J652

West	♠ 74
	♥ A52
	♦ Q98743
	♣ A4

East	♠ Q1063
	♥ J1063
	♦ KJ5
	♣ Q7

South	♠ J85
	♥ Q984
	♦ A
	♣ K10983

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhao	Chen D	Chen Y	Sun
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Shih	Lu	Wang	Liu
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Should the double of 2♦ in a nebulous diamond system be take-out or penalty? We can all see what South meant it as, but that doesn't mean we or North will agree. *Res ipsa loquitur*. Against 2♦x in the Open Room Dawei led the ♥K. Zhao won and led a diamond to the jack and ace. Sun cashed the ♥Q, then led a suit-preference ♥8 for Dawei to ruff. Dawei cashed the ♠AK, then got out with the ♣6 to the queen, king and ace. But Zhao drew the last trump, crossed to dummy with a third trump and pitched his

club loser on the ♥J for +180.

In the Closed Room Wang led the ♦5 against Lu's 2♠. Lu won, perforce, led a spade to the king, then took the club finesse, which Shih ducked. Another club put Shih back on the spot and he got out with a low heart, ducked to the ten and queen. Lu crossed to hand with a second spade, ruffed a diamond, then played on clubs. Wang ruffed the fourth round but Lu had eight tricks for a neat +110 and 7 more imps to China Women, whose lead had grown to 9 at 28-19.

The next five boards saw precisely 1 imp change hands when YBM scored a second overtrick in 4♠ on Board 28; 28-20 China Women. The final deal saw the last swing of the match.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North	♠ 642
	♥ J875
	♦ Q1097
	♣ A2

West	♠ AQJ983
	♥ K
	♦ 2
	♣ QJ753

East	♠ K107
	♥ Q43
	♦ AJ853
	♣ 64

South	♠ 5
	♥ A10962
	♦ K64
	♣ K1098

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhao	Chen D	Chen Y	Sun
2♥(♠+m)	3♥	3♠	1♥
4♠	All Pass		Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Shih	Lu	Wang	Liu
4♠	5♥	5♠	1♥
			All Pass

In the Open Room against Yiyi's 4♠ Sun led the ♣10, Q, A, 4. Back came a second club to the king followed by the ♥A, then a low diamond to the queen and ace. Declarer pitched a club on the ♥Q, ruffed a diamond to hand, ruffed a club, drew trumps and claimed 10 tricks; +420.

In the Closed Room Lu led the ♥8 to the ace and king followed by two rounds of clubs, at which point Wang claimed down one, -50. That was 10 more imps to China Women, who won the exciting back-and-forth match 38-20.

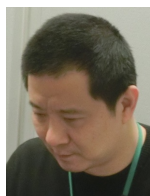
Only three pairs went down at the five level here. Credit that aggressive (we'd call it wild if it hadn't worked) 5♥ bid by Lu.

Match Seven: Shanghai Jingfan vs a-chanzu

by Barry Rigal



Ayako



Liu



Cai



Kenji



Lian



Tatai



Ota



Gao

We're halfway through the tournament and no one has punched their ticket to advance to the next round, although a few might have taken themselves out of contention. Let's see who digested their lunch better. We shall refer to the Miyakuni's by their first names (Ayako and Kenji).

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K1065432
 Vul: None ♠ ---
 ♠ J95
 ♣ Q52

West
 ♠ A
 ♥ QJ1064
 ♦ 87
 ♣ AJ874

East
 ♠ Q
 ♥ AK8753
 ♦ Q64
 ♣ 1093

South
 ♠ J987
 ♥ 92
 ♦ AK1032
 ♣ K6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
	3♠	4♥	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♥	5♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass

It always strikes me as aesthetically satisfying when the hand that takes the light initial action does less well than the one that bides its time. Here Kenji's 4♥ was understandable but hard to justify on high cards alone. Ayako was dreaming of slam but closed up

shop and took the "sure" penalty when her opponents saved in 5♠. Not so fast. Declarer ruffed the heart lead, crossed to a top diamond to play a spade and eventually finessed in diamonds to make his contract. Meanwhile, 5♥ in the other room went quietly down one, but Shanghai Jingfan had 12imps to open their account.

Two tables saved in 6♠ over 6♥, but the rest of the field were roughly equally divided between those defending hearts for +50 or +100 and those who bought the hand in a spade contract.

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 94
 Vul: N/S ♥ 9763
 ♦ K963
 ♣ AQ3

West
 ♠ AKJ32
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ J72
 ♣ K2

East
 ♠ 875
 ♥ K1084
 ♦ Q104
 ♣ J87

South
 ♠ Q106
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ A85
 ♣ 109654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
		Pass	1♦(2+)
1♠	Dbl	2♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

After a top spade lead and diamond shift, rather than the more threatening heart play, Ota established clubs for her seventh winner. In the Open Room I'm guessing that the best way for South to show clubs is to pass his hand to his partner after the board is done. But there was obviously some doubt in North's mind as to whether his partner had both minors or just clubs (what would 2NT have meant instead of 3♣?). The good news was that both partscores were hopeless and diamonds broke 3-3 so the damage was just 5 imps.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ 9
 Vul: E/W ♥ J109754
 ♦ J865
 ♣ J5

West
 ♠ A84
 ♥ AK8
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ AKQ87

East
 ♠ 652
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ K73
 ♣ 106432

South
 ♠ KQJ1073
 ♥ 63
 ♦ A1094
 ♣ 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
			1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
			1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	2♦
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dbl	3NT	All Pass

I'm not sure if Ota's 2♦ bid was trying to persuade West that he didn't have a 21-count, but if so it didn't work. Gao worked out what his partner needed by the third round of the auction, and bid 3NT. The spade lead set up the suit but declarer had nine tricks off the bat and wasn't too proud to take them. In the other room Ayako seems to have gone very low at her second and third turns: a double of 3♠ might have gotten her a reasonable penalty or to a makable game in clubs or notrump. Regardless, Shanghai Jingfan had 10 more imps to lead 22-5.

This time the field did pretty well here. With a datum of 580 we can see that most E/W pairs did reach game, more in 3NT than in 5♣, of course.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ 4
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ8632
 ♦ 4
 ♣ Q8764

West
 ♠ K6
 ♥ AJ54
 ♦ AK86
 ♣ J105

East
 ♠ QJ9852
 ♥ 97
 ♦ Q532
 ♣ 9

South
 ♠ A1073
 ♥ 10
 ♦ J1097
 ♣ AK32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
1NT	2♥(1)	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Hearts and a minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
1NT	2♣(1)	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

(1) Clubs and a major

Both tables found clubs but Shanghai got to game. With the ♥A onside the only question was whether West would duck it and if so how declarer would play. In 5♣x Liu won the spade lead and led a heart. Naturally West won and tried to cash two diamonds, so that was a painless +750 and 12 more imps when 4♣ also collected 11 tricks for +150. 34-5 now, Shanghai Jingfan.

Less than a quarter of the field bid to game here but Akihiko Yamada and Kyoko Ohno for Japan Seniors earned their "top" for playing 4♣x for +910.

Shanghai Jingfan made it 37-5 when a quirk of notrump ranges saw a-chanzu attempt a 3NT game off five clubs and an ace, while in the other room Shanghai stayed low in a safe 2♠ but ran into a cross-ruff at trick one for down one.



"You talkin' to me?"

Back to the serious imp swings.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ 53
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQJ9632
 ♦ 82
 ♣ 108

West
 ♠ 874
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AK63
 ♣ Q9642

East
 ♠ AKQJ109
 ♥ 74
 ♦ J9
 ♣ 753

South
 ♠ 62
 ♥ K108
 ♦ Q10754
 ♣ AKJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
		1♠	Dbl
2♥	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
		2♠	Dbl
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Once again a-chanzu attempted to take the money and run. Once again the chalice was cruelly dashed from their lips. To be fair, though, on this occasion the defenders had the tricks, they just had to take them. Against 4♥ the defenders cashed two spades and according to BBO West followed with spade spots suggesting a club shift. When Kenji duly played a club declarer took the ace (we believe, though the record is incomplete) and ran seven hearts, strip-squeezing West down to one diamond and two clubs to guard the club menace in dummy, and now a diamond exit ended played her.

In the other room 4♠x goes down on the club ruff, but the defenders led a heart and shifted to trumps. Declarer ruffed his heart loser in dummy, drew trumps, then played on clubs for a cool +790. That meant 15 moreimps and a 52-5 lead.

Game made each way on about five occasions so the defense generally got the job done. Mind you, to be fair at many tables they played 5♥ rather than 4♥.

A-chanzu gained two overtrick imp before the next big swing against them.

How do you get off a non-stop flight?

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ 1087
 Vul: None ♥ J542
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ AJ109

West
 ♠ AKQJ63
 ♥ Q73
 ♦ 74
 ♣ 64

East
 ♠ 954
 ♥ 1098
 ♦ 1052
 ♣ K753

South
 ♠ 2
 ♥ AK6
 ♦ AJ9863
 ♣ Q82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

This one seems strange to me. I like Tatai's double of 2♠ as responsive, not penalty, but surely Ota could have bid 4♦ here. When she bid 3♦ and sold out to 3♠ Tatai had no reason to do any more. 3♠ drifted down one, while 5♦ had 11 winners and Cai might have imagined that it looked more like a missed slam when dummy came down. 8 moreimps for Shanghai Jingfan, leading 60-7.

With a datum of 200 about half the field bid game here.

A-chanzu picked up another overtrick, then found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time yet again.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ QJ9432
 Vul: None ♥ AQ84
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 54

West
 ♠ AK108
 ♥ 1075
 ♦ 976
 ♣ 963

East
 ♠ 75
 ♥ J962
 ♦ KQJ1053
 ♣ J

South
 ♠ 6
 ♥ K3
 ♦ A84
 ♣ AKQ10872

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ayako</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Kenji</i>	<i>Cai</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♣
3♦	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>	<i>Tatai</i>	<i>Gao</i>	<i>Ota</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	3♦	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Open Room auction saw South have enough time to indicate pronounced non-interest in the majors, and Liu had no reason to overrule his partner. In the other room Ota suggested notrump but Tatai overruled her. Ota might have pressed on in clubs and with 6♣ cold for N/S that would certainly have worked better, but she trusted her partner.

Gao put his fingers on the ♣J for the opening lead. Declarer won in dummy to lead a spade and Lian hopped up with the ace to give his partner the club ruff. Back came a top diamond and declarer ruffed a diamond to hand to lead a top spade and find the bad news. West ducked and declarer had no way to reduce his trumps enough to bring home the game on a coup. That made it 71-8 and the set ended at 77-8 for Shanghai Jinfan.

Four pairs bid and made 6♣ here: Xu Jianbing-Zhang Feilan, Kazuo Furuta-Motomi Shirogane, Zhao Yonghui-Liu Haitao, and Wang Wenfei-Shen Qi were the successful pairs.

“If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. It is the principal difference between a dog and a man.” — Mark Twain

Images of Our Game



Match Eight: Hackett vs YBM

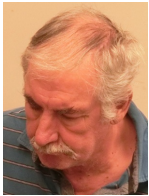
by Barry Rigal



Shih



Hydes



Mossop



Wang



Senior



Chen



Sun



Justin

On the first deal both tables played a sensible partscore, down one. Then a light opener from Justin Hackett did not work well.

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 8643
♥ J842
♦ AJ5
♣ K9

West
♠ KQJ9752
♥ K5
♦ Q
♣ J87

East
♠ 10
♥ AQ763
♦ K9742
♣ 54

South
♠ A
♥ 109
♦ 10863
♣ AQ10632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Chen	Justin	Sun
		1♥	2♣
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Hydes	Wang	Mossop
		Pass	1♣
3♠	All Pass		

Chen defended 4♠ accurately, leading the ♣K and shifting to trumps. When his partner led two more rounds of clubs he ruffed his partner's winner and cashed the ♦A for down two. In the other room Hydes led a heart to trick one. Given a chance in 3♠, Shih played three rounds of the suit to pitch a club; Mossop could ruff in or not, but could no longer set the contract. That made it 6-0, YBM.

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ K83
♥ Q10874
♦ AK
♣ AJ2

West
♠ A107654
♥ AK
♦ Q62
♣ 53

East
♠ 92
♥ 96
♦ 87543
♣ KQ87

South
♠ QJ
♥ J532
♦ J109
♣ 10964

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Chen	Justin	Sun
		Pass	Pass

1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Hydes	Wang	Mossop
		Pass	Pass

1NT	All Pass
-----	----------

Hydes opted to overcall 1NT (hardly more dangerous than bidding 2♥) and played there. Dummy had just the right amount of nothing to allow 1NT to come home, but of course a heart partscore looks safer — and more lucrative. Up to a point, Lord Copper, as the Open Room auction demonstrated. Maybe South should pass 2♥ but when Sun Ming raised to 3♥ Dawei Chen could not take a joke, and 4♥ drifted one down in the fulness of time for 4 imps to Hackett, trailing 6-4.

Over the years my experience has been that the 2019 Yokohama Cup Bridge Festival

Chinese Women's team has been more aggressive than most in competing for the partscore, so the next deal came as a big surprise to me.

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AK3
 Vul: Both ♥ 9863
 ♦ K1086
 ♣ J6

West	East
♠ J7	♠ 1098
♥ AKQ105	♥ 742
♦ 953	♦ QJ72
♣ A75	♣ Q102
South	
♠ Q6542	
♥ J	
♦ A4	
♣ K9843	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Chen	Justin	Sun
1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Hydes	Wang	Mossop
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Senior-Hackett partnership has changed to a five-card major base in mid-tournament, hence Justin's raise of hearts (though many would have bid 1NT anyway, as witness the other room). When Sun passed over the raise Chen had no reason to consider re-opening. The defenders led three rounds of spades. Senior ruffed and played one round of trumps, taking the ♥J at face value. Then he set up a diamond winner, Sun winning the first diamond to return the suit, for Chen to play a third. That gave North a card to force declarer with, and declarer could not avoid drawing trumps now, after which each defender had a plain-suit winner ready to cash.

Whether Senior made his contract or went down would hardly matter if 4♠ made as there would only be a single imp at stake (and we know a single imp never turned a match or event; see the Hackett's placing in the Day Two standings on page 1). Hydes received the defense of two rounds of hearts and ruffed, crossed to a diamond in hand and led a low club up. Should Wang have split her honors? If she didn't and declarer played the king he would go down on repeated forces. But Wang put in the ♣10 and declarer played the king, losing to the ace. Shih shifted to trumps and declarer drew three rounds and claimed, conceding a club. That was 11 imps to Hackett, leading 15-6.

Surprisingly few pairs found game here, and of course not all made it. The datum was +190 to N/S.

YBM gained 3 imps for playing the higher scoring strain on the next deal. Each table might have considered a slam that depended on picking up a suit missing queen-fourth without loss, with a singleton queen eliminating any guesswork today.

Then Hackett picked up a swing that exemplifies how sometimes you are the hammer...and sometimes the nail.

Bd: 23 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 10872
 Vul: Both ♥ 4
 ♦ AKQJ
 ♣ J643

West	East
♠ J94	♠ AKQ65
♥ 10862	♥ AK3
♦ 764	♦ 105
♣ AQ7	♣ 985
South	
♠ 3	
♥ QJ975	
♦ 9832	
♣ K102	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Chen	Justin	Sun
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shih	Hydes	Wang	Mossop
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
2♠	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Wang's pass was predicated on the fact that her partner had a way to show a constructive heart raise via a transfer. And she was right in that after a diamond lead nine tricks were the limit, and you'd be happy to stop in two. Justin Hackett's partner Brian Senior does not approve of such nasty new-fangled conventional gadgetry; when he has a spade raise he raises spades. Accordingly, Justin made a game try and Senior accepted, just as nature intended. Sun put her fingers unerringly on the top heart lead that allowed declarer to build a heart trick after drawing trumps, and one unlikely club finesse later he had his +620. That was 10 imps to Hackett that might easily have been 6 the other way. Justin was the only declarer to record +620 here.

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A63
 ♥ AK74
 ♦ 9862
 ♣ J5

West
 ♠ K54
 ♥ Q96
 ♦ AQJ7
 ♣ A102

East
 ♠ QJ107
 ♥ 108
 ♦ 53
 ♣ KQ763

South
 ♠ 982
 ♥ J532
 ♦ K104
 ♣ 984

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Sun</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Justin drove to game, while Wang offered her partner the option of playing 2NT and Shih opted to go low, one of the few E/W pairs to stay out of game here. There are plenty of lies of the heart suit where you might struggle in 2NT, and 3NT seems to need a couple of favorable things to work for you. But with the ♥J and ♦K onside, all roads led to at least nine tricks for Senior. That was 7 more imps to Hackett, leading 33-9.

Bd: 25
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KJ97542
 ♥ J6
 ♦ K1098
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ A10
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ QJ65
 ♣ AJ874

East
 ♠ Q86
 ♥ A1097
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K10653

South
 ♠ 3
 ♥ K8543
 ♦ A732
 ♣ Q92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Sun</i>
3NT	3♠	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
	4♠	All Pass	

Yet again this set YBM were significantly outbid, and yet again the cards lay favorably for the more aggressive position taken by Hackett. In 4♠ Hydes received a diamond lead to the jack and king. He led a heart up as Wang won her ace and advanced the ♣K. A nice try, but not necessary today. Hydes ruffed, led a heart to the king, then played a trump. Shih won his ace, gave his partner the diamond ruff, and while the remaining trumps fell together now, West still had a diamond trick to come for down one.

Chen went surprisingly low with his 3♠ preempt and Senior took the transfer to 3NT. Chen led the ♦10 and Sun won her ace to press on with diamonds. Senior took the third diamond to lead his low spade and had his ninth winner painlessly for a further 11 imps. It was 44-9 now.

Only four pairs were allowed to bid and make 3NT here. Special credit to Hiroaki Miura of TBA who recorded +590 in 4♠x on a diamond lead; and no, we cannot imagine how, either.

Hackett added two fortuitous overtrick imps from reaching a game where they hadn't put the defender with a side-suit singleton on lead. Then finally YBM won the auction at both tables and, life being what it is, this wasn't the right moment to do so.

Bd: 27
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ QJ9732
 ♥ J105
 ♦ 862
 ♣ 6

West
 ♠ 864
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J75
 ♣ AJ10874

East
 ♠ A10
 ♥ K98732
 ♦ K94
 ♣ KQ

South
 ♠ K5
 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ AQ103
 ♣ 9532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Sun</i>
Pass	2♥	Dbl	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
All Pass			3♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
Pass	2♥	Dbl	1NT
Pass	Pass	3♥	2♠
			All Pass

When Chen transferred to spades and heard 2♥ come around to him, his 2♠ bid presumably was not intended to show game interest. Sun's raise to 3♠ was apparently because of her well-placed heart honors. After two rounds of clubs Chen ruffed and guessed to lead the ♥J from hand rather than play trumps. That didn't work well, since when Justin got in with the ♠A he could give his partner a heart ruff, and when a club came back and Chen ruffed with the nine he could overruff and give his partner another heart ruff. There was still a diamond to lose for down two.

In the other room Mossop's completion of the transfer apparently did not promise three spades. Wang balanced with 3♥ and bought a horrible dummy for that choice. After a club lead from Mossop he could give his partner an early club ruff and still have three trumps and two diamonds to come. That added up to down three and 6 more imps for Hackett. The score had progressed to 53-9 for them when the final deal rescued a little respectability for YBM.

Bd: 30 North
 Dir: East ♠ J1043
 Vul: None ♥ A65432
 ♦ 9
 ♣ K10

West
 ♠ 972
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q632
 ♣ AQJ943

East
 ♠ A86
 ♥ QJ108
 ♦ AKJ10
 ♣ 75

South
 ♠ KQ5
 ♥ K97
 ♦ 8754
 ♣ 862

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Sun</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
		1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Mossop, on lead to a blind auction, went passive with a diamond. Declarer won to take the club finesse and Hydes won and shifted to the ♥A, then played a second heart when Mossop encouraged. That was -430, whereas in the other room Sun did well to lead a top spade and continued the suit when Chen encouraged. Now the defenders had six winners when the club finesse lost. That 11 imps made it 53-20, Hackett, almost at the top of the table after a day where they had scored 70 VPs out of 80.

About a fifth of the field was allowed to make game here.



"...and he smacked me right upside the head for not returning his suit."

Signs of the Times



22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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

Registration For Weekend Events

Anyone planning to play in:

Yokohama IMP Pairs Friday 22nd

Yokohama Swiss Teams Saturday 23rd

Yokohama Open Pairs Sunday 24th

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening

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.

Real-Time Yokohama Cup Match Updates on the Web

Wondering how your favorite team is doing RIGHT NOW? Surf to the JCBL home page

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

and click on the latest Results link.