



# YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 4

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## Day Three of the 2019 Yokohama Cup

At the end of Day Three, the top eight teams qualified for the knockout stage. The top qualifier was team PD Times (Fu Zhong, Nie Weiping, Dong Lidang, Liu Jing, Chen Ji, Patrick Huang, npc Li Jie) with 165.33 VPs. Second was team Shanghai Jingfan (Lian Ruoyang, Jiang Lianqing, Gao Fei, Liu Jun, Li Guanghua, Cai Yang) with 158.33 VPs. Third was team CHINA WOMEN (Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, npc Zou Kai) with 152.75 VPs and fourth was team Hackett Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, Diego Brenner) with 146.07 VPs. Qualifying fifth through eighth were Israel, INDIA, SARA and Shanghai Yitong. (Complete Day One rankings are below; individual results for Matches 9-12 are on page 6.) For the quarterfinals, PD Times chose SARA as their opponents, Shanghai Jingfan chose INDIA, CHINA WOMEN chose Shanghai Yitong and Hackett was left to play ISRAEL. The winner of 1 vs 7 will play the winner of 3 vs 8 in one semifinal while the winner of 2 vs 6 will play the winner of 4 vs 5 in the other.

### Yokohama Cup: Standings After Day Three (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	PD Times.	165.33	19	LEONG.	126.95	37	MMC.	111.18
2	Shanghai Jingfan.	158.33	20	C.K. Juniors.	125.86	38	China Hongyu.	110.09
3	CHINA WOMEN.	152.75	21	NANIWADA.	125.16	39	Wonderful Life.	109.1
4	Hackett.	146.07	22	TPE-NK.	123.84	40	Shanghai Qiaoyou.	107.89
5	ISRAEL.	143.71	23	TBA.	123.23	41	Poseidon.	107.72
6	INDIA.	143.25	24	Morimura.	122.99	42	Takahashi.	106.36
7	SARA.	139.03	25	SLIME SQUAD.	120.76	43	HOSA.	105.94
8	Shanghai Yitong.	137.63	26	Air-TRF.	120.48	44	HOSHI.	105.16
9	China Dalian Aoxin.	137.31	27	LCG.	120.38	45	DARKHORSE.	100.49
10	YENOVA.	136.77	28	Mistral.	118.89	46	Katsumata.	98.96
11	Soaring Shou.	136.55	29	Seoul.	118.81	47	Japan Youth.	92.37
12	YBM.	135.32	30	XYZ.	118.57	48	The Charlie's Angels.	90.53
13	Poker Bear.	134.91	31	Circle.	116.97	49	Tiger.	89.35
14	CHINA OPEN.	134.26	32	MAX SPEED.	115.94	50	S.K.	88.72
15	Voler.	130.85	33	CECIL CHAN BRIDGE.	114.58	51	BT Girls.	81.48
16	LU DONG.	128.53	34	PS-bridge.	113.38	52	Ace.	73.36
17	Japan Senior.	128.37	35	LAS FLORES.	112.66	53	Golden Dear.	0
18	SG.	127.62	36	a-chanzu.	112.12			

### Yokohama Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.bridgebase.com)

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Matches will feature PD Times (1) vs SARA (7)  
and Shanghai Jingfan (2) vs INDIA (6)

# 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: 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

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

### Competitive Bids

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

### Carding

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

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

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

## Thursday's Match Results

Team #	Match 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	24	7	3.97	113.99	2	35	15.06	129.05	4	39	1.96	131.01	31	40	15.06	146.07
2	6	57	19.91	112.57	1	16	4.94	117.51	3	39	13.23	130.74	27	30	12.97	143.71
3	4	26	8.42	111.74	31	23	8.72	120.46	2	28	6.77	127.23	22	24	7.03	134.26
4	3	31	11.58	117.14	37	27	13.23	130.37	1	76	18.04	148.41	25	30	4.34	152.75
5	39	31	13.72	104.76	29	37	16.55	121.31	31	33	10.97	132.28	24	22	10.97	143.25
6	2	2	0.09	92.14	35	30	9.67	101.81	19	35	7.84	109.65	28	24	14.19	123.84
7	47	5	0.62	87.64	12	41	14.85	102.49	41	71	18.65	121.14	15	13	5.81	126.95
8	9	38	15.06	87.77	41	33	7.56	95.33	18	38	11.58	106.91	51	23	9.03	115.94
9	8	19	4.94	76.55	44	40	15.26	91.81	23	31	9.67	101.48	41	64	19.28	120.76
10	43	11	3.62	67.23	33	13	3.12	70.35	36	26	2.09	72.44	44	5	0.92	73.36
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	45	25	13.23	87.55	7	23	5.15	92.7	40	45	15.85	108.55	30	36	8.42	116.97
13	18	23	9.34	87.11	26	39	7.03	94.14	16	9	0	94.14	32	39	17.04	111.18
14	53	25	7.84	65.96	17	49	17.34	83.3	45	13	1.71	85.01	48	18	4.34	89.35
15	31	18	3.97	97.81	20	10	7.29	105.1	50	40	16.03	121.13	7	28	14.19	135.32
16	26	24	11.87	88.09	19	23	5.36	93.45	13	69	20	113.45	35	22	5.36	118.81
17	46	9	5.36	65.73	14	17	2.66	68.39	32	35	16.88	85.27	52	11	3.45	88.72
18	13	28	12.44	91.24	38	23	5.58	96.82	8	33	8.42	105.24	46	28	9.34	114.58
19	35	25	9.34	87.67	16	40	14.64	102.31	6	42	12.16	114.47	29	39	16.38	130.85
20	27	23	7.56	96.17	15	19	12.71	108.88	28	65	19.08	127.96	21	29	9.67	137.63
21	50	31	14.64	115.63	24	30	9.67	125.3	25	10	0.92	126.22	20	30	10.33	136.55
22	34	8	12.16	102.84	27	23	6.04	108.88	47	37	15.66	124.54	3	34	12.97	137.31
23	44	42	14.42	85.31	42	18	3.79	89.1	9	32	10.33	99.43	40	26	10.66	110.09
24	1	31	16.03	126.06	21	31	10.33	136.39	37	81	19.91	156.3	5	19	9.03	165.33
25	29	44	11.87	107.38	28	44	16.21	123.59	21	56	19.08	142.67	4	52	15.66	158.33
26	16	18	8.13	85.45	13	49	12.97	98.42	51	48	17.77	116.19	47	42	9.67	125.86
27	20	31	12.44	100.72	22	37	13.96	114.68	34	50	15.06	129.74	2	20	7.03	136.77
28	37	27	5.81	104.83	25	19	3.79	108.62	20	19	0.92	109.54	6	15	9.03	118.57
29	25	38	8.13	104.37	5	10	3.45	107.82	39	38	6.52	114.34	19	19	6.04	120.38
30	40	36	12.71	84.1	45	52	18.87	102.97	38	13	4.34	107.31	12	41	11.58	118.89
31	15	42	16.03	109.66	3	27	11.28	120.94	5	30	9.03	129.97	1	21	4.94	134.91
32	36	18	7.84	63.24	52	35	12.16	75.4	17	6	3.12	78.52	13	9	2.96	81.48
33	48	11	0.62	55.2	10	42	16.88	72.08	53	56	18.41	90.49	36	16	10	100.49
34	22	1	7.84	98.17	50	45	13.23	111.4	27	31	4.94	116.34	38	25	11.28	127.62
35	19	27	10.66	93.56	6	31	10.33	103.89	42	26	10	113.89	16	39	14.64	128.53
36	32	25	12.16	69.32	46	32	10.66	79.98	10	62	17.91	97.89	33	16	10	107.89
37	28	42	14.19	114.83	4	16	6.77	121.6	24	26	0.09	121.69	39	55	17.34	139.03
38	41	32	10.33	89.57	18	39	14.42	103.99	30	35	15.66	119.65	34	21	8.72	128.37
39	5	18	6.28	96.76	47	29	10.33	107.09	29	50	13.48	120.57	37	23	2.66	123.23
40	30	27	7.29	78.91	43	36	13.96	92.87	12	22	4.15	97.02	23	24	9.34	106.36
41	38	34	11.58	91.43	8	41	12.44	103.87	7	29	1.35	105.22	9	16	0.72	105.94
42	49	17	10.33	85.5	23	43	16.21	101.71	35	26	10	111.71	50	40	11.28	122.99
43	10	37	16.38	78.75	40	22	6.04	84.79	49	27	8.13	92.92	53	20	6.04	98.96
44	23	26	5.58	73.24	9	20	4.74	77.98	48	46	10.66	88.64	10	51	19.08	107.72
45	12	14	6.77	81.42	30	8	1.13	82.55	14	52	18.29	100.84	49	27	11.28	112.12
46	17	26	14.64	72.83	36	30	9.34	82.17	52	75	19.83	102	18	30	10.66	112.66
47	7	57	19.91	100.62	39	28	9.67	110.29	22	15	4.34	114.63	26	43	10.33	125.16
48	33	60	19.38	67.72	53	29	12.44	80.16	44	44	9.34	89.5	14	40	15.66	105.16
49	42	16	9.67	84.36	51	30	4.15	88.51	43	33	11.87	100.38	45	23	8.72	109.1
50	21	14	5.36	101.02	34	34	6.77	107.79	15	16	3.97	111.76	42	36	8.72	120.48
51	52	49	19.08	84.33	49	53	15.85	100.18	26	13	2.23	102.41	8	26	10.97	113.38
52	51	3	0.92	65.97	32	28	7.84	73.81	46	21	0.17	73.98	17	38	16.55	90.53
53	14	32	12.16	69.26	48	21	7.56	76.82	33	16	1.59	78.41	43	34	13.96	92.37

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

## 22nd NEC CUP Qualifying Datum Rankings (4 matches or more)

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
1	1.7	Liu Jing	Patrick Huang	PD Times	9
2	1.32	Hiroki Yokoi	Shugo Tanaka	SARA	4
3	1.28	Lu Yan	Liu Yan	CHINA WOMEN	8
4	1.14	Xu Tong	Jiang Yi	Morimura	4
5	1	Michael Barel	Yaniv Zack	ISRAEL	12
6	0.91	Sun Yanhui	Liu Sicheng	YENOVA	9
7	0.89	Paul Hackett	Diego Brenner	Hackett	8
8	0.86	Lian Ruoyang	Gao Fei	Shanghai Jingfan	6
9	0.74	Hu Linlin	Liu Yinghao	China Dalian Aoxin	10
10	0.73	Lu Dong	Zhang Wei	LU DONG	5
11-12	0.7	Jiang Lianqing	Li Guanghua	Shanghai Jingfan	6
11-12	0.7	Kelvin Ng	Xing LiKun	Poker Bear	12
13	0.68	Kaoru Sento	Machiko Nishiura	The Charlie's Angels	8
14	0.64	Justin Hackett	Brian Senior	Hackett	8
15	0.63	Ryo Matsubara	Mark LaForge	Air-TRF	7
16	0.62	Chen Dawei	SUN Ming	YBM	9
17	0.55	Yusaku Nishimura	Kenji Jindai	Japan Youth	7
18-19	0.54	Wang Yanhong	Zhang Yizhuo	LU DONG	6
18-19	0.54	Sumit Mukherjee	Debabrata Majumder	INDIA	11
20	0.53	Chen Yuechen	Li Lianjiang	China Hongyu	7
21	0.52	Zhou Feiwei	Sun Shiyu	Voler	8
22	0.51	Chen Yunlong	Shi Haojun	CHINA OPEN	7
23	0.49	Shao Zijian	Ran Jingrong	Shanghai Yitong	12
24	0.48	Xu Jianbing	Dai Jiwei	LCG	4
25-26	0.47	Kwon Haeryung	Zhu Chenyu	C.K. Juniors	7
25-26	0.47	Liu Jun	Cai Yang	Shanghai Jingfan	12
27	0.46	Ju Chuancheng	Shi Zhengjun	CHINA OPEN	7
28	0.43	Baron Ng	Percy Wong	Circle	8
29	0.42	Rajeshwar Tewari	Keyzad Anklesaria	INDIA	10
30	0.4	Xu Jianbing	Zhang Feilan	LCG	5
31-34	0.39	Tadashi Teramoto	Kumiko Sasahira	SARA	6
31-34	0.39	Hu Xiao	Yang Jinghui	Voler	9
31-34	0.39	Jin Ke	Zhu Ping	Soaring Shou	7
31-34	0.39	Tadashi Teramoto	Shugo Tanaka	SARA	6
35-36	0.37	Bauke Muller	Simon De Wijs	LEONG	12
35-36	0.37	Liu Haitao	Zhao Yonghui	XYZ	7
37-38	0.35	Yasuo Takeda	Subba Ravipudi	MMC	12
37-38	0.35	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	LAS FLORES	8
39-40	0.33	Fu Zhong	Nie Weiping	PD Times	6
39-40	0.33	Dong Chunhui	Shi Bin	Soaring Shou	9
41	0.28	Hideo Togawa	Kazuo Takano	NANIWADA	8
42	0.24	Y C Lai	L H Chin	MAX SPEED	12
43	0.23	Kotomi Asakoshi	Yuki Harada	LAS FLORES	8
44-46	0.21	Cecil Chan	Leo Lau	CECIL CHAN BRIDGE	12
44-46	0.21	PeiHua Liu	Hoyee So	Mistral	12
44-46	0.21	Toshiro Nose	Masaru Naniwada	NANIWADA	4
47	0.2	Charmian Koo	Flora Wong	Circle	4
48	0.15	Yasuyo Iida	Yoko Nenohi	Katsumata	6
49-51	0.14	Kazuhiko Yamada	Masayuki Ino	Japan Senior	12
49-51	0.14	Ayako Shimazaki	Kazuko Tachibana	Poseidon	12
49-51	0.14	Masaru Naniwada	Hideo Togawa	NANIWADA	4
52-53	0.13	SHIH Juei-Yu	WANG Ping	YBM	9
52-53	0.13	Edwin Lau	Tan Wei Teck	SG	12
54	0.12	Wang Wenfei	Shen Qi	CHINA WOMEN	8
55-56	0.11	Jonky Chung	Jed Wang	TPE-NK	12
55-56	0.11	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	TBA	6
57-59	0.09	Daehong Kim	Seungjin Roh	Seoul	11
57-59	0.09	Li Xiaoyi	Kang Meng	China Dalian Aoxin	8
57-59	0.09	Xi Zhenwang	Zhang Wei	Shanghai Qiaoyou	8
60	0.08	Zhu Bizhi	Bao Xiangdong	Shanghai Yitong	12
61	0.07	Sumiko Sugino	Naoto Matsumoto	Wonderful Life	12
62	0.06	Zhong Eric. Yi	Qiao Xuechen	XYZ	9

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
63-64	0.04	Mick Yeung	Ben Lam	SLIME SQUAD	12
63-64	0.04	Noriko Yagi	Hu Wenhui	PS-bridge	5
65	0.03	Toshiro Nose	Hisami Kataoka	NANIWADA	8
66-68	0.01	Terumi Kubo	Hiroaki Miura	TBA	11
66-68	0.01	Kazuo Furuta	Motomi Shirogane	HOSA	11
66-68	0.01	Hu Wenhui	Toshiharu Hirose	PS-bridge	7
69-70	-0.01	Dong Lidang	Chen Ji	PD Times	9
69-70	-0.01	Kelvin Ong	Soh Siew Luie	SG	12
71-73	-0.02	Flora Wong	KF Mak	Circle	6
71-73	-0.02	Seongseok Kang	Sooik Lee	Seoul	11
71-73	-0.02	Zhao Bing	Chen Yiyi	CHINA WOMEN	8
74-75	-0.03	Jimmy Chen	Chris Lin	TPE-NK	12
74-75	-0.03	Takako Nakatani	Yumi Yanagida	Katsumata	7
76-77	-0.04	Zhang Jun	Zhang Xuejun	YENOVA	6
76-77	-0.04	Makiko Sato	Kyoko Shimamura	Takahashi	12
78	-0.05	Hu Junjie	Chen Yichao	YENOVA	9
79	-0.06	Alex Hydes	David Mossop	Hackett	8
80-82	-0.08	Jaiyong Ahn	Jackie Sohn	Tiger	12
80-82	-0.08	Tian Wei	Li Zhenhe	Soaring Shou	8
80-82	-0.08	Ming-Chien Liu	Kuan-Hsuan Chen	Poker Bear	12
83-84	-0.1	Akihiko Yamada	Kyoko Ohno	Japan Senior	12
83-84	-0.1	Xi Yuheng	Masakatsu Sugino	PS-bridge	9
85	-0.12	YEH Chen	ZHANG Yalan	YBM	6
86-87	-0.13	Takashi Sumita	Yoko Fukuyama	Air-TRF	9
86-87	-0.13	Rai Tanaka	Song Yihan	Japan Youth	5
88-89	-0.15	Li Ka Him	Jason Ho	SLIME SQUAD	12
88-89	-0.15	Ayako Matsubara	Toby Curtis	Air-TRF	8
90	-0.16	Ping Zhiqiang	You Minghao	C.K. Juniors	4
91-92	-0.17	Eric Leong	Cecilia Rimstedt	LEONG	12
91-92	-0.17	Masako Sakurai	Junko Tsubaki	HOSHI	12
93-94	-0.19	Kenji Miyakuni	Sadako Nakajima	a-chanzu	9
93-94	-0.19	Ilan Bareket	Assaf Lengy	ISRAEL	12
95	-0.21	Zhao Jinlong	Xu Tong	Morimura	5
96	-0.25	Huo Shiyu	Chen Jun	China Dalian Aoxin	6
97	-0.27	Zhou Junyu	Shu Dawei	LCG	6
98-99	-0.3	Yoon Mikie	Kim Yoon Kyung	BT Girls	12
98-99	-0.3	Robert Geller	Tadashi Yoshida	TBA	5
100-101	-0.32	Kim Youngmee	Lam Chengyen	S.K.	8
100-101	-0.32	Hiroya Abe	Daimaru Senda	Poseidon	12
102	-0.33	Jin Zhiyin	Zhen Yingchun	Shanghai Qiaoyou	8
103-104	-0.34	Ilsung CHUNG	Kyunghae SUNG	DARKHORSE	12
103-104	-0.34	Zhang Wei	Xin Guofang	LU DONG	5
105	-0.35	WC Li	SooJa Kwon	Mistral	12
106	-0.36	Kim Youngmee	Poon Hua	S.K.	4
107-108	-0.37	Wu Zhonghua	Gong Jingyuan	Voler	7
107-108	-0.37	Kikuo Tatai	Hiroko Ota	a-chanzu	12
109-110	-0.39	Kim Namyeon	Poon Hua	S.K.	8
109-110	-0.39	Hiroko Tanaka	Yoji Mizuma	Wonderful Life	12
111	-0.42	Jungyoon PARK	Sungae YANG	DARKHORSE	12
112-113	-0.44	Zhuang Zejun	Chen Gang	CHINA OPEN	8
112-113	-0.44	Ying Xiaoying	Xi Mang	Shanghai Qiaoyou	6
114	-0.45	Katsumi Takahashi	Yuki Fukuyoshi	Takahashi	12
115	-0.48	Yukiko Hoshi	Megumi Takasaka	HOSHI	12
116	-0.49	K.F. Tung	Chris Wu	CECIL CHAN BRIDGE	12
117	-0.56	Zhang Zhiyu	Zhang Baiji	XYZ	8
118-119	-0.57	Cathy Lee	Zoe Li	MAX SPEED	12
118-119	-0.57	Kim Namyeon	Lam Chengyen	S.K.	4
120	-0.63	Seonyoung Min	Inchul Lee	Tiger	12
121-122	-0.64	Lee Soohyun	Koh Inkyung	Ace	12
121-122	-0.64	Toshihiro Ogata	Taeko Arita	HOSA	11
123	-0.65	Shunsuke Morimura	Tadashi Imakura	Morimura	12
124	-0.68	Daniel Takahashi	Kyungwon Yoo	MMC	12
125-126	-0.7	Takeshi Niekawa	Hiroki Yokoi	SARA	4
125-126	-0.7	Yoko Komuro	Shimako Yaji	LAS FLORES	8



Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
127	-0.74	Kim Sun Young	Chang Eun Kyung	Ace	12
128	-0.81	Zhu Huilin	Hu Yihong	China Hongyu	10
129	-0.82	Yoshiko Shiota	Mio Manki	The Charlie's Angels	8
130	-0.86	Im Hyun	Chang Mi Rye	BT Girls	12
131	-1	Atsuko Katsumata	Kimiko Kamakari	Katsumata	8
132	-1.57	Kazuko Nakamura	Reiko Fukumaru	The Charlie's Angels	8
	-1.07	Masaaki Takayama	Takeshi Niekawa	SARA	2
	2.64	Chen Yunlong	Shi Zhengjun	CHINA OPEN	1
	1.64	Toshihiro Ogata	Motomi Shirogane	HOSA	1
	1.61	Wu Liangkai	Zhu Chenyu	C.K. Juniors	2
	1.36	Zhao Jinlong	Jiang Yi	Morimura	3
	1.14	Hyeyoung Kim	Seongseok Kang	Seoul	1
	1.05	Kenji Miyakuni	Ayako Miyakuni	a-chanzu	3
	1	Xi Zhenwang	Zhen Yingchun	Shanghai Qiaoyou	1
	0.93	Robert Geller	Hiroaki Miura	TBA	1
	0.86	Yasuyo Iida	Takako Nakatani	Katsumata	2
	0.75	Zhou Junyu	Cao Ji	LCG	2
	0.71	Zhang Wei	Zhang Yizhuo	LU DONG	2
	0.67	He Xinmei	Li Lianjiang	China Hongyu	3
	0.61	He Xinmei	Chen Yuechen	China Hongyu	2
	0.43	Rai Tanaka	Sanekata Sonoike	Japan Youth	1
	0.4	Cao Ji	Dai Jiwei	LCG	3
	0.26	Zhu Chenyu	You Minghao	C.K. Juniors	3
	0.25	Wu Liangkai	Ping Zhiqiang	C.K. Juniors	2
	0.14	Sanekata Sonoike	Song Yihan	Japan Youth	1
	0	Wu Liangkai	You Minghao	C.K. Juniors	2
	-0.07	Wang Yanhong	Xin Guofang	LU DONG	2
	-0.14	Charmian Koo	KF Mak	Circle	1
	-0.17	Charmian Koo	Percy Wong	Circle	3
	-0.46	Rai Tanaka	Yusuke Serikawa	Japan Youth	2
	-0.5	Shu Dawei	Xu Jianbing	LCG	1
	-0.57	Yumi Yanagida	Yoko Nenohi	Katsumata	1
	-0.64	Hyemin Oh	Daehong Kim	Seoul	1
	-0.64	Xin Guofang	Zhang Yizhuo	LU DONG	3
	-0.67	Sanekata Sonoike	Yusuke Serikawa	Japan Youth	3
	-0.81	Noriko Yagi	Xi Yuheng	PS-bridge	3
	-1.07	Subhash Gupta	Bachiraju Satyanarayana	INDIA	3
	-0.57	Zhou Junyu	Dai Jiwei	LCG	1
	-0.82	Shu Dawei	Zhang Feilan	LCG	2
	-0.93	Lu Dong	Xin Guofang	LU DONG	1
	-0.93	Zhang Wei	Zhen Yingchun	Shanghai Qiaoyou	1
	-0.96	Song Yihan	Yusuke Serikawa	Japan Youth	2
	-1.05	Kwon Haeryung	Ping Zhiqiang	C.K. Juniors	3
	-1.21	Shi Haojun	Ju Chuancheng	CHINA OPEN	1
	-1.21	Setsuko Ogihara	Tadashi Yoshida	TBA	1
	-1.21	Sanekata Sonoike	Kenji Jindai	Japan Youth	1
	-1.29	Taeko Arita	Kazuo Furuta	HOSA	1
	-1.39	Hu Yihong	Chen Yuechen	China Hongyu	2
	-1.43	Kwon Haeryung	Wu Liangkai	C.K. Juniors	1
	-1.5	Baron Ng	KF Mak	Circle	2
	-0.46	Masaaki Takayama	Hiroki Yokoi	SARA	2
	-1.57	Yusaku Nishimura	Sanekata Sonoike	Japan Youth	1
	-3.57	Yusaku Nishimura	Yusuke Serikawa	Japan Youth	1



New Power Rangers?

# Match Nine: SARA vs XYZ

by Barry Rigal



Baiji



Teramoto



Tanaka



Zhiyu



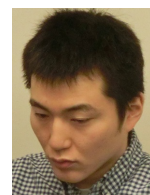
Niekawa



Zhao



Liu



Yokoi

For the first round of the final day we shall see XYZ, one of the surprise successes of the event so far, take on SARA. We shall refer to Baiji and Zhiyu Zhang by their first names.

Bd: 1 North  
 Dir: North ♠ Q107432  
 Vul: None ♥ ---  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ 10952

West  
 ♠ J98  
 ♥ KJ87652  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ 3

East  
 ♠ K5  
 ♥ AQ4  
 ♦ KJ1074  
 ♣ Q76

South  
 ♠ A6  
 ♥ 1093  
 ♦ A86  
 ♣ AKJ84

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
	Pass	1NT	Dbl.
2♥	Pass	2♠	3♣
3♥	4♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Norths passed rather than preempt, with Zhao for XYZ staying silent throughout and defending 4♥ for -450. When Teramoto heard his partner double the 13-15 notrump, then come in over 2♠ (East's 2♥ bid was natural but explained as spades), he offered his partner a choice of games. Tanaka ruffed the

opening heart lead and played ace and another spade, guessing the suit. He won the diamond return and cashed two top clubs, his best chance to make. When no queen fell he ruffed a heart and led the ♠Q, letting East ruff in and cash two plain winners for down two. That was 8 imps to SARA, which was adjusted to 10 by the Tournament Director.

Michael Barel played 4♠x after opening the North hand with a Multi 2♦. (The auction was 2♦-Dbl-4♣-4♥; 4♠-P-P-Dbl; AP with 4♣ a relay to get the major suit played by the strong hand.) Barel ruffed the heart lead, guessed spades, then ducked the first diamond and won the second. Now he could cash the ♣A, ruff a heart to hand and draw the last trump, at which point he knew 12 of West's cards (three spades, six hearts, two diamonds and a club). So the finesse in clubs was sure to bring home the game, since if it lost West would only have hearts left. That produced +690 to go with +420 in hearts the other way from his teammates.

Elsewhere, more people made game on the E/W cards than the N/S cards, but the datum was E/W+50.

Bd: 2 North  
 Dir: East ♠ J97  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 9874  
 ♦ AK95  
 ♣ A8

West  
 ♠ AK1062  
 ♥ J632  
 ♦ 107  
 ♣ K5

East  
 ♠ 53  
 ♥ K5  
 ♦ Q86432  
 ♣ QJ7

South  
 ♠ Q84  
 ♥ AQ10  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ 1096432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Zhao's decision to balance over 2♦ with a double looks weird at first (and maybe even second) glance. He cannot have been thrilled to hear his partner bid 3♣, but when the defenders took their spade ruff it was with a trump trick. When the heart finesse succeeded Liu had his +110. Meanwhile, Zhiyu could pass his partner's limited opener and balance into 2♦. After a club lead and heart shift saw the defenders take the first three tricks, then revert to clubs, declarer guessed to duck the first round of trumps and ended up with six tricks for a flat board.

On the next deal a thoughtful safety play by Baiji Zhang saw him lose 2 imps in his 3NT contract when the same contract declared from the other seat needed no such care; 10-0, SARA.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ AJ2
Vul: Both	♥ AK95
	♦ A962
	♣ Q4

West	East
♠ Q9743	♠ K108
♥ 102	♥ Q764
♦ Q10875	♦ 43
♣ K	♣ J752

South
♠ 65
♥ J83
♦ KJ
♣ A109863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	4♦(1)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

(1) Balanced raise to 4♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Liu's "normal" 1NT response saw him reach 3NT the wrong way up. On a low spade lead declarer followed low from dummy — an interesting choice — and Yokoi won his ♠10, then cleared the suit. Declarer now took a sensible if unfortunate line when he ran the ♣Q to West's king. On the run of the spades he misguessed the ending and finished two down.

In the other room Tanaka's abnormal 1♥ response led to an apparently foolish contract but West wasn't in on the joke. He led his singleton ♣K and declarer won to continue the suit. Zhiyu rather carelessly followed with his lowest club at his second turn so Baiji shifted to diamonds. Declarer won cheaply, unblocked the ♦K, crossed to the ♠A and led the ♦A, overruffing East's ♥4. Now he led the ♣10, ruffed with the ♥10 and overruffed, then led the fourth diamond and ruffed it in hand as East correctly pitched his ♣J in this ending:

	♠ J2	
	♥ K95	
	♦ 9	
	♣ ---	
♠ Q974		♠ K10
♥ ---		♥ Q76
♦ Q10		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ J
	♠ 6	
	♥ J3	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 986	

Now Tanaka led a spade and when East won the trick (necessary for the defense) he needed to shift to the ♥Q to pin declarer's jack. Instead, he exited with a low heart. Declarer won his ♥J and played a club, pitching the spade from dummy, and scored the last two tricks for his game. That made it 23-0, SARA.

About a quarter of the field made 3NT here. You would not be surprised that there was only one +620.

In the match between Israel and TPE-NK Lengy opened 2♠ as West (spades and a minor) to get a low spade lead from Bareket against 3NT, which went to his queen. Had declarer ducked this and next run the ♣Q, he might have made his game even if he had misguessed spades, because of the blockage. But declarer ducked the spade and finessed on the return, then tried to run the ♣Q. That was sensible enough but worked poorly here. In the other room Barel played 3NT on a blind auction and received a heart lead. He put up the jack in order to be in dummy to lead the ♣10 to West's king. Back came a low spade. Barel put in the jack and East won his king to continue the ♠10.

Had West ducked this, Barel would also have ducked, then won the next spade to cash the ♣Q, to get the bad news, followed by the ♥AK. If East keeps his queen declarer cashes the diamonds ending in hand and endplays East with the fourth heart to lead clubs. If he unblocks, then declarer can simply cash his hearts and then diamonds ending in dummy and take the ♣A for the ninth trick. Devotees of the literature of bridge should check out the August, 2000 issue of Bridge Today for an article on the Pavlicek Coup by Stefan Ralescu, which discusses how cashing an ace early can compel the defenders to determine whether to unblock early or not at all.

In fact, when Barel ducked West overtook the second spade to shift to hearts. But declarer could simply win in hand and overtake the ♣Q to set up clubs. That meant he scored four clubs and five plain winners while the defenders took two tricks in each black suit.

At this point four relatively quiet games followed. SARA picked up 3 overtrick imps to make it 26-0.

Bd: 10            North  
 Dir: East        ♠ J8  
 Vul: Both        ♥ 82  
                     ♦ A1092  
                     ♣ AJ975

West  
 ♠ K6  
 ♥ KQ106543  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ K43

East  
 ♠ 9753  
 ♥ A97  
 ♦ 876  
 ♣ Q106

South  
 ♠ AQ1042  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ KQJ54  
 ♣ 82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
		Pass	1♠
3♥	Dbl	Pass	5♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Dbl	4♦

All Pass

The preemptive overcall saw Teramoto obliged to double facing an unlimited opener after which Tanaka drove to 5♦. This looks to be the desired contract at this vulnerability, with the spade finesse

basically all you need. Not today. When the spade finesse lost, ten tricks were the limit.

In the other room North might not have been able to double 2♥ as that would have been a spade raise. Regardless, N/S found diamonds and when North made a game try South firmly rejected it. A slightly unsatisfactory 6 imps to XYZ, though doubtless not from their perspective.

For the record, 4♠ is excellent. Declarer probably must pitch a club on the second heart since if he ruffs and takes a spade finesse West might defeat him by ducking, then winning the second trump and forcing him again.

Bd: 11            North  
 Dir: South       ♠ Q987  
 Vul: None        ♥ Q52  
                     ♦ J4  
                     ♣ KQ85

West  
 ♠ 103  
 ♥ 763  
 ♦ Q9752  
 ♣ A93

East  
 ♠ K652  
 ♥ J104  
 ♦ A83  
 ♣ 1076

South  
 ♠ AJ4  
 ♥ AK98  
 ♦ K106  
 ♣ J42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
			1NT
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Niekawa led his long suit and beat the game; Baiji led a heart and did not. Is there a lesson here? You betcha! If fourth highest works as badly for you as it does for me, then NOT leading fourth highest from five when you have a side entry is spurning the bounty provided you by the Fates.

SARA's lead had risen to 36 but XYZ struck two late blows to make the match score respectable.

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 1095  
 ♥ AKJ952  
 ♦ AK6  
 ♣ 10

West  
 ♠ K43  
 ♥ Q63  
 ♦ QJ73  
 ♣ AJ7

East  
 ♠ Q862  
 ♥ 1087  
 ♦ 10542  
 ♣ K2

South  
 ♠ AJ7  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 98  
 ♣ Q986543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Whether you like Liu's 3NT (color me nauseous) or not, the cards lay unfairly well for the decision to bid on. When the defenders led a top diamond declarer won and came to hand in spades to play on hearts for the ninth trick. That was 10 imps to XYZ. They went one better on the next deal.

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q92  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ A109532  
 ♣ AJ5

West  
 ♠ AK86  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ KQ  
 ♣ Q10643

East  
 ♠ 1053  
 ♥ K8543  
 ♦ J84  
 ♣ 72

South  
 ♠ J74  
 ♥ QJ762  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ K98

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baiji</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Zhiyu</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>
1♣	2♣(♦)	Pass	2♦
Dbf	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbf	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

2NT had only seven tricks after a diamond lead, but 2♥x was a very much more interesting spot. The defenders appear to need to set up a spade to get their sixth winner going but South naturally led a diamond and North continued the suit. Declarer ducked a club to South, who shifted belatedly to spades. Declarer won and ducked another club to produce this ending:

♠ Q9  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ 10953  
 ♣ A

♠ K86  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ Q106

♠ 105  
 ♥ K8543  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ ---

♠ J7  
 ♥ QJ762  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ K

With the lead in North, Teramoto set up his side's spade trick but that should not have been good enough, and it wasn't, in a way. Declarer won the ♠K, ruffed a club to hand and led the ♥10, ruffed low and overruffed with the ♥10. Now declarer cashed dummy's ♥A and led a master club to pitch his spade. The defenders took three tricks in the minors and two trumps, but declarer had his 470 and 11 imps, making the final score 42-27, SARA.

As Deep Finesse tells us, the winning defense is to lead a diamond in the diagramed ending, on which South must pitch his ♣K. Since the clubs aren't established yet, declarer has to lead a heart up. South splits his honors and declarer wins and ruffs out the clubs, but that lets South overruff and return a spade. He can then ruff West's club winner as East pitches his spade, then exit with a spade to take one more trump winner in time for down one.

Still, it wasn't all North's fault. After the spade exit, declarer correctly won the ♠K to ruff a club. However, it was a mistake for him to lead the 13th diamond rather than a heart up. Why, you ask? Had South ruffed *high* instead of low it would have forced the overruff. But the key difference is that now North still has a heart left and declarer can no longer cash dummy's club winner since North can ruff in. The winning play is for East to lead a heart, not a diamond, in the five-card ending. South must split his honors and declarer wins and leads a club to shake the spade loser. South gets his two trump tricks one way or another, but no more.

# Match Ten: China Dalian Aoxin vs YENOVA

by Rich Colker



Junjie



Liu



YC



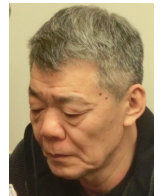
Jun



Yanhui



Sicheng



Shiyu



Linlin

Our two VuGraph matches this round include two opponents, CHINA OPEN and Poker Bear, who are somewhat North of the cutoff for qualifying but in danger of falling back, and two other opponents, China Dalian Aoxin and YENOVA, who are somewhat South (but not too far South) of that cutoff and for whom a loss at this point would seriously endanger their hopes of qualifying. Let's see what the Fickle Finger of Fate has in store for these KO wannabees.

In the Dalian-YENOVA match we have two Hus (Junjie and Linlin) and two Chens (YC and Jun). In both cases we shall refer to them by their given names to avoid confusion (at least on your part).

Bd: 17  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 854  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AQ108732  
 ♣ 95

West  
 ♠ A73  
 ♥ 107  
 ♦ KJ94  
 ♣ 10742

East  
 ♠ KQ102  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ AKQJ86

South  
 ♠ J96  
 ♥ AKQ98543  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ 3

## Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>YC</i>	<i>Linlin</i>
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
	3♦	Dbf	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbf	All Pass

On the auction it is not difficult, from West's perspective, to see how passing East's second double rates to be the best action. And double-dummy it is also easy to see that 4♥ has four top losers. What is less easy to see is that four of either black suit can be defeated on best defense (see below). Both Wests passed here but that is where the similarities ended. In the Open Room Junjie led the ♣7 (second high from weakness?). YC won the jack and did well to work out to table the ♠K (playing a second top club allows South to ruff, draw trumps and pitch a spade loser with the help of a diamond finesse). Now what card should Junjie play to get YC to continue that suit rather than try to cash a second club? He played the (upside-down count?) seven. Now YC played the ♠Q, Linlin dropping the jack as Junjie followed with the three. A third spade now would have guaranteed the contract's defeat but YC decided to try to cash a second club. Linlin ruffed and ran his trumps as Junjie came down to the ♦KJ, dummy the ♦AQ, and YC the ♠10 and ♦6. Linlin now had to decide whether West had pitched a deceptive ♠A in order to hold on to the ♦J6, in which case YC held the stiff ♦K, or whether West had been forced to pitch down to the ♦KJ. In the end he may have been swayed by the bidding (would YC really have doubled twice with that 6-4 black two-suiter and no significant values in either red suit?). So Linlin played the ♦5 to the ace, hoping to drop the singleton ♦K offside, and the defenders were granted a reprieve from having earlier failed to cash the third spade when they had the chance. Down one, -100.

In the Closed Room Jun also led the ♣7 but at this table Shiyu tried to cash a second club at trick two. Sicheng ruffed, ran all but one trump, and with no real squeeze possibilities available simply took the diamond finesse and came home with 10 tricks for a neat +590; 12 imps to YENOVA, off to a 12-0 start.

In our other BBO match the auctions at both tables began:

West	North	East	South
	3♦	Dbl	4♥
Dbl	Pass	?	

leaving East to decide what to do over 4♥x. From East's perspective pass seems like an odd position to take, though as the cards lie it is best (both 4♠ and 5♣ can be defeated on best defense). In the Open Room East tried 4♠, which was a good choice both in theory and in practice. South led the ♥AK, then switched to a club when a diamond would have beaten the contract (North wins and returns a diamond promoting South a trump trick). Now East simply won the club, drew trumps in three rounds, and cashed his clubs for 10 winners; +420.

In the Closed Room East tried 5♣. South led a diamond. North won and switched to a heart. South cashed two hearts but North accurately ruffed the second to play a second diamond, hoping to promote a trump trick for South. Alas, there was no promotion but down one was still worth 10 imps to Poker Bear.

Only eight pairs were allowed to play 4♥ (often doubled) and make it. About the same number succeeded in 5♣ but we witnessed just one of the two pairs who brought home +420. Zhang Wei, playing with Xi Zhengwang of Shanghai Qiaoyou was the successful declarer.

Bd: 18	North
Dlr: East	♠ 6
Vul: N/S	♥ J10763
	♦ Q982
	♣ KQ3

West	East
♠ QJ109	♠ 8532
♥ 9	♥ AQ84
♦ K53	♦ A107
♣ 109854	♣ A6

South
♠ AK74
♥ K52
♦ J64
♣ J72

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
		1♣*	Dbl
1♥(♠)	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
		1NT	All Pass

YC's 1♣ opening in the Open Room may be either Polish-style (natural or a weak no-trump) or a catch-all bid for all minimum balanced hands not suitable for a 1♦ or 1M opening. Linlin led the ♠4 against 3♠ and when dummy's nine held YC set about ruffing hearts in dummy: heart to the ace, heart ruff, club to the ace, heart ruff (noting the fall of the ♥K), club to Liu's queen. Liu now erred by playing a diamond, ducked to the jack and king, and now YC could pick up the suit with a finesse for the ♦Q. Instead he ruffed a club and played the ♥Q. Linlin ruffed high, cashed the ♠A, then exited with the ♠7 to YC's ♠8 and now declarer had to lose a diamond in the end. Still, that was nine tricks for a handy +140.

In the Closed Room Sicheng led the ♠A against Shiyu's 1NT, then shifted to the ♥2, 9, 10, Q. Shiyu went back to spades, winning the second round in dummy and driving out the ♠K on the third round. Sicheng now tried a low diamond, ducked to the queen and ace. A spade to dummy was followed by the ♣10 to the queen and ace, then a second club to Sun's king. The ♥J now went to the ace and now Shiyu simply cashed the ♦K and claimed for +90; 2 imps to YENOVA, leading now 14-0.

In the other BBO match CHINA earned 1 imp when they made +150 in 1NT while Poker Bear scored +110 in 2♠; 10-1.

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ AJ1065
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ43
	♦ 3
	♣ J65

West	East
♠ 8432	♠ 7
♥ A65	♥ 10987
♦ Q8642	♦ AK105
♣ 9	♣ KQ84

South
♠ KQ9
♥ K2
♦ J97
♣ A10732

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
		Dbl	1NT
Pass	2♣		Rdbl
All Pass			

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
			1NT(1)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦(2)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- (1) Puppet Stayman  
 (2) No 5-card major

In the Open Room YC chose a bad time to make a speculative double for a club lead, especially when he could stand the lead of a diamond (and might even prefer it). Discretion would have been the better part of valor (for either E/W player) on this deal since 9 or 10 tricks were available in a diamond contract, depending on the lead and defense. YC started the defense with the top two diamonds, Liu ruffing the second to play a heart to the king and ace. Liu ruffed the  $\diamond Q$  return (why not a trump?) and played on spades, with YC ruffing the second round and exiting with the  $\heartsuit 10$  to the jack. Liu pitched a spade on the  $\heartsuit Q$  and continued with a high spade, claiming 8 tricks for a nifty +560.

In the Closed Room Yanhui received the  $\heartsuit 10$  lead against  $4\spadesuit$ , ducked to the jack. A second heart went to the king and ace and Jun switched to a club to the queen and ace. Declarer crossed to the  $\spadesuit J$ , ruffed a heart, overtook the  $\spadesuit Q$  with the ace (still holding the  $\spadesuit 1065$  over Jun's  $\spadesuit 84$ ) disclosing the 4-1 trump break, and now, when Yanhui exited with the  $\clubsuit J$  to the king, Shiyu conceded down one (losing a heart, diamond and club plus a club ruff) for -50. That was 12 imps to China Dalian, who trailed now by just 2 at 14-12.

In our other BBO match OPEN picked up 2 more imps by beating  $4\spadesuit-3$  while conceding  $4\spadesuit-2$  at the other table. Poker Bear, 10-3.

A couple of tables did bring home  $4\spadesuit$  here, and PeiHua Liu, partnering Hoyee So for Mistral came home with +590 on the lead of the  $\diamond A$ .

Bd: 20  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North	$\spadesuit$ 1075
	$\heartsuit$ Q432
	$\diamond$ Q
	$\clubsuit$ AQ1074

West
$\spadesuit$ AK32
$\heartsuit$ A
$\diamond$ AK843
$\clubsuit$ 653

East
$\spadesuit$ 864
$\heartsuit$ J985
$\diamond$ J96
$\clubsuit$ KJ8

South
$\spadesuit$ QJ9
$\heartsuit$ K1076
$\diamond$ 10752
$\clubsuit$ 92

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>YC</i>	<i>Linlin</i>
$1\diamond$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
$2\spadesuit$	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
$1\clubsuit$ (Str)	Pass	$1\diamond$ (Neg)	Pass
$1\spadesuit$	Pass	$2\spadesuit$	All Pass

Perhaps Shiyu's  $2\spadesuit$  was non-forcing in the Closed Room but Jun's hand surely warrants another bid when as little as  $\spadesuit Qxxx \heartsuit xxxxx \diamond Qx \clubsuit xx$  or even  $\spadesuit Qxxx \heartsuit xxx \diamond xxx \clubsuit xx$  opposite would make  $4\spadesuit$  excellent. (And yes, we know Shiyu's  $2\spadesuit$  could have been a three-card raise since Jun's  $1\spadesuit$  rebid typically shows five.) Jun scored up two overtricks for a disappointing +200.

In the Open Room Junjie-YC reached a reasonable 3NT that had plenty of play, even with the defense getting off to their best lead of a heart. Realizing he needed a club trick to go with two spades, one heart and (hopefully) five diamonds he immediately led a club to the king. Next a diamond to the ace revealed the good news and he was soon scoring up +600 for 9 imps and a 23-12 YENOVA lead.

In OPEN-Poker Bear the Bears played in  $4\spadesuit+1$  in one room while OPEN scored up  $2\spadesuit+2$  in the other, for a 10-imp pickup for the Bears, increasing their lead to 20-3. The majority of the field played and made game here.

Bd: 21  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North	$\spadesuit$ AQ10963
	$\heartsuit$ Q853
	$\diamond$ 52
	$\clubsuit$ J

West
$\spadesuit$ K7
$\heartsuit$ A1076
$\diamond$ QJ
$\clubsuit$ KQ764

East
$\spadesuit$ 42
$\heartsuit$ KJ4
$\diamond$ A98643
$\clubsuit$ 85

South
$\spadesuit$ J85
$\heartsuit$ 92
$\diamond$ K107
$\clubsuit$ A10932

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>YC</i>	<i>Linlin</i>
	$2\diamond(\heartsuit/\spadesuit)$	Pass	$2\heartsuit$ (P/C)
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	$2\diamond(\heartsuit/\spadesuit)$	$3\heartsuit$	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



In both rooms N/S's actions left little room for E/W to explore alternative contracts and both E/W pairs guessed to go for the gusto with 3NT (if you have to play a poor contract, play the one that pays the most if you're right). A spade was led at both tables and now declarer needed a miracle in diamonds (♦10x with South or ♦K10 with North). When the ♦Q lost to the king and a spade came back both contracts went down three, -150, for an ignominious push. Still 24-12 YENOVA.

In our other BBO match Xing-Ng suffered the same fate as the pairs in the Open Room, -150. But in the other room Shi-Ju found the superior 4♦ contract after the auction began 2♠-Pass-3♠ and went down only two for a 2-imp pickup for OPEN, cutting their deficit to 20-5.

Surprisingly game is cold here. How do you make 3NT or 5♦? You don't, but try beating 4♠! Precisely one pair bid and made game: Im Hyun and Chang Mi Rye of BT Girls managed that feat. Meanwhile, Cathy Lee (playing with Zoe Li for Max Speed) was able to make 3NT on a heart lead, followed by a club shift when the diamond finesse lost.

Bd: 22 North  
 Dir: East ♠ A97  
 Vul: E/W ♡ K5  
 ♦ 92  
 ♣ AJ10872

West	East
♠ 543	♠ QJ82
♡ Q2	♡ 973
♦ AQJ1065	♦ K743
♣ K3	♣ Q6

South  
 ♠ K106  
 ♡ AJ10864  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ 954

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
		Pass	3♡

Pass 4♡ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
		Pass	Pass

1♦	2♣	Dbl	2♦*
Dbl	3♣	3♦	3♡
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

N/S are cold for 5♡ due in large part to the three doubleton round-suit honors in the E/W hands. In the Open Room N/S arrived there quickly and made 11

tricks; +450. In the Closed Room E/W dominated the auction (although to be fair N/S did not go entirely quietly) but when Yanhui chose to rebid clubs for a third time rather than show her ♡Kx support for Sicheng's belated hearts (which figured to be a six-bagger) N/S reached 5♣. They lost just a trump and a diamond for +400, but that was 2 imps to China Dalion, who now trailed 23-14.

The N/S pairs in our other BBO match were not quite up to this one. Both played in heart partscores making just 10 tricks at each table for a push; still 20-5, Bears. The field missed game here so neither pair should be too shame-faced about it.

Over the next three deals in YENOVA picked up a total of 1 overtrick imp bringing their match score to 24-14. Over those same three boards OPEN picked up a total of 6 imps, 5 when 3♦ made at one table and went down two at the other (Board 24) and 1 for an overtrick in 4♠ (Board 25). OPEN had cut Bear's lead to 9 at 20-11.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 84  
 Vul: Both ♡ 83  
 ♦ 962  
 ♣ AQ10864

West	East
♠ 10	♠ KQJ653
♡ AKJ942	♡ Q106
♦ A103	♦ 74
♣ KJ9	♣ 32

South  
 ♠ A972  
 ♡ 75  
 ♦ KQJ85  
 ♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
		2♦(Multi)	Pass
2♡(P/C)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
		2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs played 4♡ from the West seat, which requires a diamond lead to beat it, and in both rooms North did find the killing lead of the ♦2. But fortunes diverged from there. In both rooms declarer won and played the ♠10 to South's ace. South should now have cashed a diamond but instead led back a club. North won, cashed the other high club, and led a

third club for an overruff or a trump promotion. But declarer could ruff with the ♥10, draw trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, and pitch diamonds on the spades for a nail-biting push at +620. Still 24-14, YENOVA.

In OPEN-Bear the play was the same to the first two tricks in the Open Room but at trick three Zhuang, South, cashed a diamond before switching back to clubs putting 4♥ down one, -100. The defense at the other table was similar to that in both tables of the China Aoxin-YENOVA match and 4♥ made +620. That was 12 imps to OPEN, who took the lead in the match at 23-20.

Game made at almost half the tables it was attempted, but at only seven of those tables was a diamond led.

Board 27 was a club partscore battle at both tables in both matches. In Dalian-YENOVA Junjie-YC played 3♣-1 while Jun-Shiyu for YENOVA played 4♣-2 for a 2-imp pickup, leading now 26-14. In OPEN-Bear both E/W pairs played in 3♣-1 for a push. Still 23-20.

Bd: 28            North  
 Dir: West        ♠ J4  
 Vul: N/S         ♥ AQJ  
                    ♦ 864  
                    ♣ J10954

West  
 ♠ 10985  
 ♥ 10532  
 ♦ J109  
 ♣ A3

East  
 ♠ AK732  
 ♥ K96  
 ♦ Q72  
 ♣ 72

South  
 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ 874  
 ♦ AK53  
 ♣ KQ86

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

In the Open Room contract of 3♠ there are five inescapable losers as long as the defense gets clubs going before North's two heart tricks can be dislodged. Linlin led the ♦A and switched to the ♣K at trick two, so that was not a problem and the

defense prevailed for +50. 4♣ in the Closed Room has five inescapable losers, as long as the defense cashes their spades before one of them disappears on a diamond. Jun-Shiyu took care of that chore at tricks one and three so 4♣ drifted down two, -200, sending 6 imps to Dalian to cut YENOVA's lead to 6 at 26-20.

In our other BBO match Bear made 2♠ E/W at one table and played 3♣-1 N/S at the other for a push, leaving the score at 23-20, OPEN.

Bd: 29            North  
 Dir: North       ♠ A873  
 Vul: Both        ♥ 54  
                    ♦ AK98  
                    ♣ K52

West  
 ♠ K1062  
 ♥ AKJ8  
 ♦ 102  
 ♣ Q106

East  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ Q632  
 ♦ QJ763  
 ♣ AJ8

South  
 ♠ J954  
 ♥ 1097  
 ♦ 54  
 ♣ 9743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass

Dbl        All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
	1NT	All Pass	

Danger, Will Robinson! Danger! Both editors agree (and no, it's not the end of the world): South's pass of 1♦x in the Open Room is an error (redouble is the standout action). YC led the ♠Q to the ace and Liu got out with a heart to the jack. Junjie tried to cash two more hearts but Liu ruffed the third, cashed the two top diamonds, and eventually had to score an additional trump trick for down three, -800.

In the Closed Room 1NT was no picnic either, but at least it hadn't been doubled. Shiyu led the ♦6 to the ten and king and Yanhui got out with a low spade to the queen. Shiyu now found the heart switch for a diamond back, ducked to the queen, and the defense finished the hearts, declarer pitching a spade and a club. Next came the ♣A followed by the ♣J but when Yanhui cashed the ♠A and Shiyu showed out declarer gave up, conceding down three, -300. That was another 11 imps to YENOVA, whose lead had grown to 17 at 37-20.

In OPEN-Bear both tables played in 1NT-4 for no swing. Still 23-20. Last dance, last chance.

Bd: 30 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ 83  
 Vul: None ♥ 87532  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ Q432

West  
 ♠ A52  
 ♥ AK109  
 ♦ J9643  
 ♣ 6

East  
 ♠ J104  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ KQ108  
 ♣ KJ10985

South  
 ♠ KQ976  
 ♥ QJ64  
 ♦ 75  
 ♣ A7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Junjie</i>	<i>Liu</i>	YC	<i>Linlin</i>
		1♣	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jun</i>	<i>Yanhui</i>	<i>Shiyu</i>	<i>Sicheng</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

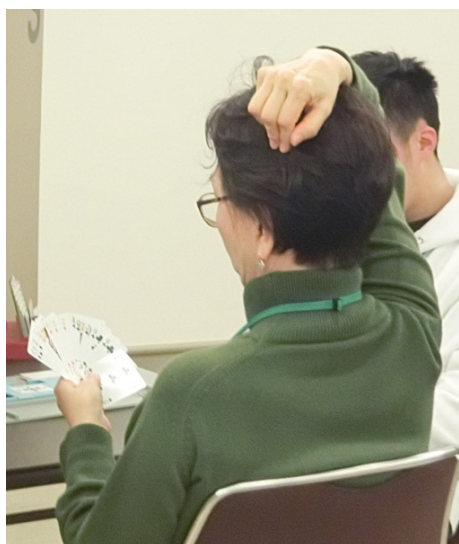
Looking at just the E/W hands the 5♦ contract in the Open Room looks sensible, made even more so when you're told the adverse trumps are 2-2. Linlin led the ♠K and YC pitched his losers there on the ♥AK, then played a club to the jack and ace. Back came the ♠Q, ruffed, followed by the ♣K, club ruff, then a trump and a claim of 11 tricks; +400.

Looking at the auction in the Closed Room one would be hard pressed to believe this came from the same deal (except for East's club bids) with diamonds not having been mentioned. Jun led the ♣6 to the ace and Sicheng tabled the ♠K. Jun won and switched to a diamond, ducked to the king, and Shiyu now cashed the ♣K and continued the suit as Jun ruffed, then got out a diamond. Soon Sicheng conceded down three, -500, adding 3imps to China Dalian's total. YENOVA had won the match 37-23.

In our other BBO match Xing declared 3NT from the West with a low heart lead and came home with nine tricks (one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and a club) for +400. In the other room Ju declared 3♣ and made ten tricks for +130, 7imps to Poker Bear, who pulled the match out on the last board to defeat CHINA OPEN 27-23.

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

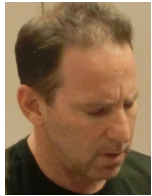
**Simon Says: "Put your hand on your head."**



"Well, we can't all be perfect."

# Match Eleven: Israel vs CHINA OPEN

by Barry Rigal



Lengy



Ju



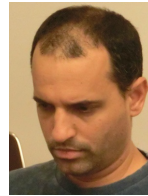
Bareket



Chen



Barel



Zack



Haojun



Zhengjun

Both teams were on the qualifying bubble. We shall differentiate the Shi's by using first names and keep an eye on India-Poker Bear, our other BBO match.

Bd: 1  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ QJ8  
♥ AK93  
♦ Q10743  
♣ 5

West  
♠ 654  
♥ Q4  
♦ AJ85  
♣ A864

East  
♠ AK32  
♥ J1086  
♦ 6  
♣ K1032

South  
♠ 1097  
♥ 752  
♦ K92  
♣ QJ97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Ju	Bareket	Zhengjun
	1♦	Dbl	Pass

2NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Barel	Haoyun	Zack
	1♦	Dbl	Pass

3NT All Pass

Lengy thought his hand was worth a 2NT bid while Chen thought he had enough for game. Lengy won the diamond lead in hand, led a low heart to the jack, then cashed the ♣K followed by the ♣A to find the bad news. North pitched his small diamond so Lengy tried the ♥Q. Ju won and deviously shifted to the ♠J. Lengy might have worked out that the play so far had marked North with all the missing high cards but he won the king (South dropping the ten) and cashed the ace to let North unblock his ♠Q. Now the defenders had a spade trick and two winners in all

the other suits; down two.

Barel, who had shown real diamonds, led a top heart, shifted to a low diamond, then won the next heart to lead a second low diamond. That gave declarer an eighth winner, but when he cashed his heart winners South pitched a club winner and North had three diamonds ready to cash when in with the ♣Q. Two rather surprising imps to China Open.

Nobody brought home 3NT here but 2NT made at about half the tables where it was attempted.

Bd: 2  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ J8  
♥ Q1054  
♦ AQ43  
♣ Q109

West  
♠ Q73  
♥ A8  
♦ 1092  
♣ J7642

East  
♠ A109542  
♥ 32  
♦ J5  
♣ K85

South  
♠ K6  
♥ KJ976  
♦ K876  
♣ A3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Ju	Bareket	Zhengjun
		2♦	2♥
Dbl	2NT(R)	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Barel	Haoyun	Zack
		2♦(♥/♠)	2♥
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Lengy wasn't prepared to invest in a sacrifice, despite the vulnerability. He led a spade against 4♥ and the defenders played two rounds of that suit. Declarer played on trumps and when diamonds broke he had no need to establish a discard from the clubs to collect +620.

Chen was prepared to save and won the heart lead to return the suit. Zack as South took the second heart to shift to a low diamond. Barel took the queen, then paused for more reflection (the table was already two boards behind the other room). Eventually he shifted to a low trump and when declarer ducked in dummy the defenders cashed their spade and diamond winners and exited in spades. Chen won in hand, ruffed out the diamonds, then led a low club from the board. And now, however badly he guessed, he could not lose more than two clubs as the cards lay. That meant 3 imps to China Open, leading 5-0.

Bd: 3  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AQ3  
 ♥ 10752  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ 10543

West  
 ♠ K85  
 ♥ AK9  
 ♦ K82  
 ♣ AK76

East  
 ♠ J10962  
 ♥ Q84  
 ♦ Q103  
 ♣ J8

South  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ J63  
 ♦ J9765  
 ♣ Q92

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Ju</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Zhengjun</i>
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥(1)	Pass	3NT(2)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥(3)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
(1) No major	(2) Five spades	(3) Transfer	

Closed Room

West <i>Chen</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Haoyun</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
2NT	Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room the heart lead from North gave nothing away. Lengy took it in dummy to pass the ♠J and the defenders exited in hearts. Maybe Lengy might have played a low spade back now but he advanced the ♠K, letting North win and exit in trumps. Declarer had no reason now to do anything

but play for the ♦J inside and there was no joy in Muddville.

Barel, whose partner had had the chance to double 3♥, led a low club. Naturally declarer put up the jack, covered by the queen, and from there on he stood no chance either. He crossed to a heart to pass the ♠J. Barel won and played back a heart. When declarer did lead the low spade from hand Barel took his king and returned a spade, leaving declarer to misguess diamonds and go one down in peace and quiet. No swing, still 5-0, China Open.

3NT looks to be a better contract here and it would be likely to make. But I'm quite surprised (aren't you?) that while a third of the field beat 4♠, more people made the game than went down. Of course on a diamond lead from either North or South the hand is over but several defenders led hearts and still allowed the game to make. Perhaps it is better to remain in ignorance.

Bd: 4  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 10642  
 ♥ 1063  
 ♦ AQ2  
 ♣ J52

West  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ J42  
 ♦ KJ9875  
 ♣ A7

East  
 ♠ KQ873  
 ♥ KQ985  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ Q3

South  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ 1064  
 ♣ K109864

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Ju</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Zhengjun</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♦	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Chen</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Haoyun</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♦	3♣	All Pass	

Bareket, whose 3♥ bid wasn't pessimistic facing a passed partner who couldn't double 2♣, was favored with a low club lead. He won the queen and might well have played a spade at trick two, ensuring he could get a ruff in dummy, but that might have forced him to guess trumps as the cards lay, as opposed to guessing spades. He actually led the ♥Q from hand, then a heart towards dummy. South won and played a second club, then took the ♠A and shifted to a

diamond to let North play the third heart. Prevented from ruffing a spade in dummy, declarer successfully passed the ♠9, earning his +620. Very nicely done! Bareket was one of only a handful of declarers to succeed here. Kelvin Ng for Poker Bear also brought 4♥ home.

In the other room Haoyun didn't stretch to bid 3♥ and defended 3♣. Declarer took the diamond finesse in order to lead a club to the king and lost one trick in each side suit and two trumps for down one. Still 11imps to Israel, leading 11-5 now.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ AJ109  
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK76  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ A65

West  
 ♠ K875  
 ♥ Q10832  
 ♦ 64  
 ♣ K7

East  
 ♠ Q643  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ Q1095  
 ♣ J1043

South  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ 954  
 ♦ AJ832  
 ♣ Q982

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
	1♣(16+)	1♠(1)	Dbl
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

(1) spades and a minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Haoyun</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bareket's intervention got him into rather rarified air. Though he avoided the penalty double, his spade lead gave declarer three spade tricks and when the defense pressed on with spades, declarer had time to play ace and another club and duck. Had the king not appeared he would have won and led up to the queen for the ninth trick. As it was he came to +630.

Barel had a much harder task in the other room on the lead of the ♥J. He ducked, won the shift to the ♦9 in hand, then finessed in diamonds and played two more rounds of the suit, pitching a heart and spade from hand. Back came a spade and now he could win and (eventually) play the ace and another club. Time stood still again, but the overcall eventually persuaded him to duck. Down came the king and Barel had his +600 and the loss of just 1 imp.

Bd: 6 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ 854  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 103  
 ♦ AKJ763  
 ♣ 53

West

♠ ---  
 ♥ AK86  
 ♦ Q9852  
 ♣ KJ109

East

♠ Q109632  
 ♥ Q952  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ 72

South

♠ AKJ7  
 ♥ J74  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ AQ864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
		Pass	2♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Haoyun</i>	<i>Zack</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠	All Pass

One of the editors agrees with Haoyun's response and rebid in the Closed Room (but hate the 1NT rebid) so my snarky comments will have to be toned down. Had East passed 1♦, no doubt South would have reopened with a double and West would have bid 1♥, after which who knows where the music would have stopped? 2♠ played about as well as most 6-0 fits on the minority of high cards usually do. The defenders led diamonds and eventually scored two aces and five trump tricks when North was able to get a heart ruff.

In the other room Ju had no sensible call over his partner's opening bid and Bareket did not really have enough to reopen, though he might have been confident his partner had something close to a penalty double. Lengy led a top heart and shifted to a true-count diamond. Declarer rose with the ace and played a spade to his king. Oops! Now the defenders could force dummy to ruff a heart and eventually kill dummy's last trump without sacrificing their own trump trick for down one. 6imps to Israel, leading 17-6.

China Open came back into the match at once.

I thought I had bad posture, but it was just a hunch.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ Q54  
 ♦ J9875  
 ♣ AQJ6

West  
 ♠ A10932  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ A6432  
 ♣ 93

East  
 ♠ QJ85  
 ♥ J109732  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ K74

South  
 ♠ K74  
 ♥ AK8  
 ♦ KQ10  
 ♣ 10852

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Haoyun</i>	<i>Zack</i>
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Ju led a diamond against 4♠ which turned out well for what seems to be a rather random reason. Declarer ruffed, played a heart to South's ace, won the next diamond with the ace and led a club up. North won and played a third diamond and now declarer could no longer establish hearts easily. He tried to ruff the fourth diamond in dummy and was overruffed, the trump back leaving him with a diamond to lose. The key here was for declarer to ruff the second diamond rather than rising with the ace. He could ruff in dummy, then ruff a heart to hand and lead a club up. Now, though the fourth diamond would be overruffed, he would be left with a winning diamond, not a losing one.

Barel's heart lead proved far less effective. Zack won to shift to a spade. Chen let it run to dummy, then ruffed out the hearts while leading a club up to dummy's king. Eventually he cashed the ♠A and gave up a third trick but had +420 and 10 imps. It was 17-16 for Israel now.

More N/S pairs brought home 3NT on friendly defenses here than made 4♠; the datum was E/W +50.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ AK96  
 ♥ AQ1073  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ 1095

West  
 ♠ Q10752  
 ♥ 52  
 ♦ K10  
 ♣ AQ63

East  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ AQ85  
 ♣ KJ742

South  
 ♠ 43  
 ♥ KJ98  
 ♦ J97432  
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
1♥(♠)	2♥	1♣	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♣	3♥
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Haoyun</i>	<i>Zack</i>
1♠	2♥	1♣	Pass
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	4♥

Zhengjun's 3♥ bid in the Closed Room looks to be on the cautious side. When Lengy doubled, Bareket guessed to bid 4♣ and no one had anything more to say. The defenders led hearts and cashed out. Not bad but not nearly enough. In the other room Chen doubled 4♥ and Haoyun thought he had nowhere to go. A trump lead appears to make 4♥ impossible, and you can surely argue that if your side has half the deck a trump is more than reasonable. However, he led the ♠J and Barel ducked a diamond, won the spade return and now had enough trump entries to ruff out the diamonds for 11 tricks when hearts behaved. That was a healthy +990 and 13 imps. It was 30-16 for Israel now.

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ KQ6543  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ A82  
 ♣ KJ7

West  
 ♠ A92  
 ♥ KQ95  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ A864

East  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ QJ754  
 ♣ Q9532

South  
 ♠ J108  
 ♥ J87432  
 ♦ 1096  
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
1♣	1♠	2♣(♦)	Pass
2♦	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Haoyun</i>	<i>Zack</i>
1NT	2♦(♥/♠)	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	2♠	3♦	All Pass
All Pass			

Israel comfortably outbid their opponents here, so

Ju's somewhat speculative double of the final contract in the Open Room hardly affected the result. Lengy won the top spade lead, played ace and another club, and when the defenders did not have a diamond ruff he claimed 11 tricks.

In the Closed Room West's pass of 3♦ feels wrong; partner surely has at least an invitation here. Diamonds played well enough but Israel had 9imps and the score was now 39-16.

India got back into their match when Ng-LiKun reached the giddy heights of 6♣ — and this looked like a slightly better double. India played 5♣ in the other room for +400 and 12imps. They trailed by 27-28 now.

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J10943  
 ♥ K742  
 ♦ 103  
 ♣ 63

West  
 ♠ 762  
 ♥ J8  
 ♦ 9762  
 ♣ A952

East  
 ♠ AK8  
 ♥ Q105  
 ♦ KQ54  
 ♣ J107

South  
 ♠ Q5  
 ♥ A963  
 ♦ AJ8  
 ♣ KQ84

China Open recovered a little in their match when both Souths had to find an opening lead against 1NT. Zack led a top club, Zhengyun a low heart. It pains me to see how much better the heart lead worked since the defenders shifted to spades to force declarer to duck one trick there, eventually setting 1NT, while the top club lead allowed Haoyun to set up diamonds and make his contract.

The final deal of the match gave China Open an even better chance for gain.

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q108432  
 ♥ A106  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ 97

West  
 ♠ 95  
 ♥ J92  
 ♦ QJ9864  
 ♣ 63

East  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ KQ87  
 ♦ K72  
 ♣ AQJ42

South  
 ♠ AKJ7  
 ♥ 543  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ K1085

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Ju</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Zhengjun</i>
		1♣	1♠
2♣(♦)	2NT(♠)	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Dbl	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Chen</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Haoyun</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dbl	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Is this such a difficult game to defeat? If the defenders lead either red suit, then win the ♣A to cash their winners and shift to the other red suit, the game is down without a struggle. But obviously not every West got his powerful suit into play. Bareket surely knew his partner had diamonds and a weak hand, so maybe he could have seen the danger. But it was Lengy on lead to trick one and he started well with the ♥2. All defenders using MUD would have had no trouble continuing the attack on hearts (much as it pains me to countenance such inferior methods) but Bareket wasn't in that position. "Knowing" South had five spades and three hearts the shift to a top club seemed safe; then he belatedly shifted to diamonds. Too late! Zhengjun took the ♦A, drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, played a club to the queen and king, then passed the ♣10, pitching a diamond and claimed the rest. His ♣8 would take care of the slow heart loser.

In the other room Haoyun knew less about the hand, but I'm not a huge fan of the singleton trump here. That makes more sense only if you know your side has more than your share of the high-cards. Declarer transposed into the winning line from the other room by playing on clubs and setting up the suit, holding the loss to 5imps and winning 39-28 in all.

India did even better, though I can't say I approve of the way they did it: opening a strong notrump on the East cards to have an unopposed sequence to 3♦ while defeating the 5♦ sacrifice in the other room. The two big swings at the end saw them win 33-30.



"Here's my scorecard."



# Match Twelve: Soaring Shou vs Shanghai Yitong

by Barry Rigal



Ping



Bizhi



Bao



Jin



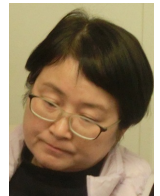
Shao



Dong



Shi



Ran

Shanghai Yitong and Soaring Shou play one another while Hackett and Poker Bear enter the arena. In each case, unless they fought to a draw, we would assume it was "Two men enter, one man leaves." And yes, technically it was possible that we would witness a Mexican shootout where neither team advanced, but each had just enough VPs in the bag for that to require some very specific results from other matches.

After picking up two overtricks on the Board 17 Shanghai Yitong struck on Board 18, when an optimistic action from Bizhi saw his partner unable to take a joke. I wish all my jokes worked out that well.

Bd: 18  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 63  
♥ J987643  
♦ 106  
♣ A4

West  
♠ K95  
♥ A  
♦ Q97432  
♣ 1083

East  
♠ QJ1074  
♥ 52  
♦ J5  
♣ Q972

South  
♠ A82  
♥ KQ10  
♦ AK8  
♣ KJ65

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao
4♠	5♥	2♠	Dbl
Pass	6♥	Pass	5♠
		All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
Pass	4♦(♥)	Pass	2NT
All Pass			4♥

After the lead of the ♠Q against 6♥ Bizhi had no choice but to win and take the club finesse, hoping three rounds of clubs would stand up. No problem; a neat +1430 on the scorecard, together with 13imps and two steaming opponents. Six pairs bid and made slam here.

No imps were scored on the next two deals, a quiet game and a partscore with a choice of major or minor to go plus in. (Poker Bear overbid to a playable game and went down when a trump finesse lost, to give Hackett a 6-2 lead).

Next Soaring Shou got on the scoreboard when two auctions indicated a big difference in hand valuation.

Bd: 21  
Dlr: North  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 865  
♥ AJ5432  
♦ AQ5  
♣ 9

West  
♠ A3  
♥ K7  
♦ J1062  
♣ KJ1065

East  
♠ K10974  
♥ 98  
♦ K73  
♣ A84

South  
♠ QJ2  
♥ Q106  
♦ 984  
♣ Q732

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao
1NT	1♥	1♠	Pass
	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
Dbl	1♥	1♠	2♥
All Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥

Bao's decision in the Open Room to sell out to 1NT looks very surprising, with what appears to be a normal raise to 2♥ on the first round of the auction. Discretion worked very well here since, after a heart lead to 1NT, declarer won and misguessed clubs at once. Bao continued with the ♥10 and, curiously, Bizhi overtook rather than leaving partner on lead to put a diamond through. No matter, 1NT still was down one.

In the other room the defense started with spades, a successful choice though not one I would have found myself. After three rounds of spades, ruffed by West, a low diamond saw declarer put in the queen, and that was two down; 6 imps to Soaring Shou.

In our other featured match Paul Hackett also found himself in 3♥ but here his opponent led what I would have: a trump. Naturally this was disastrous, since it gave declarer a chance to avoid the spade ruff. And when West compounded this with a shift to a low diamond when in with the ♠A, the second diamond trick went away and Hackett had 3 imps against 1NT down one in the other room.

The score had grown to 15-6 in our featured match when both N/S pairs attempted a delicate game.

Bd: 24	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A9872		
Vul: None	♥ Q8		
	♦ K107		
	♣ AQ10		
		East	
West		♠ 105	
♠ KJ6		♥ K1076542	
♥ J3		♦ A92	
♦ J5		♣ 3	
♣ J97654			
	South		
	♠ Q43		
	♥ A9		
	♦ Q8643		
	♣ K82		

#### Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
Pass	1NT	3♥	3NT
All Pass			

Devotees of the intra-finesse would have no problem here. In 3NT, on a low heart lead around to the queen, they would pass the ♠7, then win the heart return to advance the ♠Q. In fact this might even be the indicated line on this auction. How would our pairs do?

Dong won the heart and laid down the ♠A. "Bzz.

Thank you for competing, we have some lovely door prizes." Bizhi won the heart lead and did not lead out the ♠A, instead playing the ♠2 to the queen. "You are the weakest link. Goodbye." The main difference was that the Shanghai defender sitting East signaled for clubs, not diamonds, so when West got in he duly played a club and declarer escaped for down one, not down four; 4 imps to Shou making it 16-10, Shanghai Yitong.

In Poker Bear-Hackett both tables reached 4♠ by North, in one case after opening 1♠, in the other after opening 1NT but being allowed to compete to 2♠. Would the declarers find the intra-finesse? No. East led their singleton club and now there did not appear to be time for the play, though in fact this is the winning line here. If you lead and pass the ♠7 then although West can give his partner the ruff, it sets you up to play trumps for no losers while endplaying East in the process.

Both declarers led ace and another spade. For Hackett, Senior shifted to hearts to set the game. In the other room West optimistically led a second club. Declarer could now establish diamonds as a home for the heart loser and the game came home. Hackett now led 22-2.

Shanghai had an opportunity to add to their lead after a truly strange competitive decision on the next deal.

Bd: 25	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AKQJ72		
Vul: E/W	♥ 8		
	♦ 1073		
	♣ K104		
		East	
West		♠ 10643	
♠ 5		♥ AJ3	
♥ Q9754		♦ A9	
♦ KQJ65		♣ QJ73	
♣ A9			
	South		
	♠ 98		
	♥ K1062		
	♦ 842		
	♣ 8652		

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♦	2♠	3♠	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dbl	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Maybe Ping had a heart in with the diamonds, or maybe the decision to make a lead directing overcall was based on being unwilling to make a Michaels cuebid here. Either way, 4♦ played fine when declarer ruffed the second spade and took a losing heart finesse. South did not work out to give his partner a ruff and played back a club. Declarer simply drew trumps and ran hearts with the aid of the finesse; +130.

In the other room Shao was able to compete with a cuebid without any concern, getting his side to 4♥. The defenders led two rounds of spades to set up the force, but when Ran finessed in hearts all Shi could do was win and shift to a club. Declarer took the ace, drew trump in sensible fashion, then cashed the diamonds and gave up the last trick. It was 26-10 now.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dir: East ♠ K76  
 Vul: Both ♥ 106432  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ K96

West  
 ♠ J5432  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ J1054

East  
 ♠ A10  
 ♥ KQJ  
 ♦ A1082  
 ♣ A873

South  
 ♠ Q98  
 ♥ A95  
 ♦ KQ953  
 ♣ Q2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao
		1♣	Dbl
Pass	1♥	1NT	Pass
2♥(♠)	3♥	Dbl	All pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
		1♦	All Pass

The play in 1♦ started normally, if unfortunately, for Shi, who led a spade to the king and ace. Shi won the ♥A and played two more rounds of spades, letting declarer pitch a club, then ruffed a heart winner to dummy to lead a fourth spade. When North ruffed in with the ♦J declarer discarded a club (and if the record is to be believed South is shown as overruffing his partner's ♦J with the queen). 1♦ seemed always due to take seven tricks but the other room's result meant Soaring Shou was sure to gain anyway. Bizhi's over-competition to 3♥ saw East preferring to believe the evidence of his eyes rather than his opponents, doubling for +200 and 4 imps.

Yitong's lead was down to 12 imps but they still seemed safe to qualify. However, after Soaring Shou picked up a couple of undertricks they turned the match around on the next deal.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AKQJ32  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K10  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ KQ52

West	East
♠ 54	♠ 10987
♥ AQ86	♥ 752
♦ J1097	♦ A8653
♣ A74	♣ 8

South  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ J943  
 ♦ Q42  
 ♣ J10963

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao
1♦	Dbl	2NT(♦)	Pass
3♦	4♠	All pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
1♦	Dbl	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both tables reached the normal game and both Easts led their singleton club. But while Ping played to give her partner two ruffs, Shao ducked the lead. Declarer, charmed, drew trump and claimed 10 tricks. That was 13 imps to Soaring Shou. When they gained an overtrick imp on the next deal they had moved 4 imps in front of their opponents and had overtaken them for the final qualifying spot.

Curiously Senior-Hackett let through 4♠ in similar fashion when Senior led the ♦A before shifting to his singleton and Justin Hackett did not believe this defense was consistent with his actual holding.

This board was also critical to SARA's qualifying. They doubled a 5♦ sacrifice over 4♠ in one room for +500 and stole the hand for 3♦ in the other to gain 12 imps and move into seventh place.

The last deal would give Shanghai Yitong a final chance to snatch the coals out of the fire. Not a good time for the computer to crash!

Bd: 30 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 5  
 Vul: None ♥ KQ109  
 ♦ J10642  
 ♣ 653

West  
 ♠ KQ972  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ KJ974

South  
 ♠ AJ83  
 ♥ A862  
 ♦ Q53  
 ♣ Q2

East  
 ♠ 1064  
 ♥ J7543  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ A108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ping	Bizhi	Jin	Bao

No record: 5♦x by North

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Dong	Ran	Shi
		Pass	1♣(2+)
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

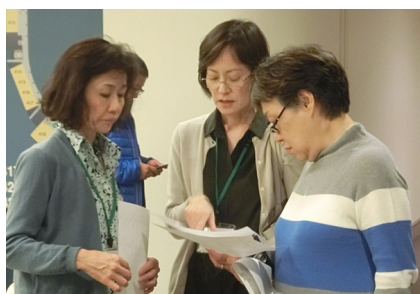
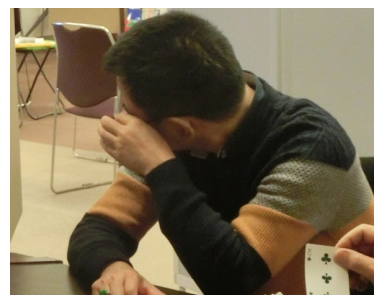
As you can see, a forcing defense takes down 4♠ without any problem while 5♦x is booked for -800 on a heart lead and club shift (the defense takes two clubs, two heart ruffs and two trumps). We know that East led a heart against 5♦x but can only assume there was a revoke after that to hold the penalty to -300, the official result.

No matter. With 4♠ going down Soaring Shou would qualify, but cliches about cups and lips are there for a reason. After the ♥K lead Shao ruffed, advanced the ♠K, and Shi let it hold. Divining the position, declarer guessed clubs, then cashed three rounds of the suit as South pitched a diamond. Declarer simply played to ruff a diamond in dummy and lost three trump tricks but nothing else. Those 3imps moved Shanghai Yitong into eighth place and dropped Soaring Shou into the 11th spot.



“Oh, no one wants to see your scores anyhow!”

## Images of Our game





# Keep Bridge Alive

The University of Stirling's new campaign to establish the Sociology of Bridge

BE THE DIFFERENCE

## How Can You Help?

We need players, bridge clubs and organisations and other supporters to join us in the Keep Bridge Alive campaign so we can publicise and promote bridge more widely.

We would also be delighted to hear from you if you have research ideas, expertise or even time to support the campaign. Please contact us at [alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk)

The money raised will go towards funding two part-time researchers to work alongside Professor Punch. This new research team will explore interactions within bridge regarding well-being, healthy aging and social connection. We will also produce a library of accessible materials aimed at different audiences, including schools, to encourage growth of the game and help shift the image of bridge. Ultimately we aim to launch a global collaborative research project focusing on the benefits that bridge contributes to health and well-being, leading to the long-term sustainability of the mind sport.

Please join us by contributing to the Keep Bridge Alive Campaign so that more people, including your children and grandchildren, can share the benefits of this endlessly fascinating mind sport.

To support the establishment of the Sociology of Bridge you can donate via our Crowdfunder UK page at [crowdfunder.co.uk/u5c0e5e7810869](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/u5c0e5e7810869); online on the University of Stirling website at [stir.ac.uk/about/our-people/alumni/support-stirling/make-a-donation](http://stir.ac.uk/about/our-people/alumni/support-stirling/make-a-donation); or by filling in the form enclosed.

## Donations from the USA

The University is an Associate Member of the American Fund for Charities (EIN 52-2109597), a US non-profit organisation which supports the work of charitable organisations throughout the world.

Donations made by US taxpayers to the University, as an Associate of the American Fund for Charities, is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please contact us at [alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk) and we'll ensure you have the correct paperwork.



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING 

BE THE DIFFERENCE

Scottish Charity No SC011159

The Sociology of Bridge is a research project and an emerging academic field exploring interactions within the mind sport, well-being, healthy ageing and social connection as experienced in the bridge world.

Today, fewer people are playing bridge and there is a fear within the bridge community that the game will become extinct if we don't recruit a new generation of players.

Players know that bridge as a mind sport encourages immersion whilst promoting focus and clear thinking, which can offer a welcome distraction from worries, helping to alleviate stress and boost self-esteem.

Bridge, as a partnership and team game, facilitates communication and the development of social connections as well as contributing to intergenerational community building.



Professor Samantha Punch and Zia Mahmood, International Bridge Player

### What is the Sociology of Bridge?

Sociology is a way of exploring and understanding how society works. The sociology of bridge is about understanding how the bridge world works: what motivates players, opportunities for skill development and the dynamics of the game.

By doing research which highlights the benefits and skills that playing bridge provides, we can develop an evidence base to persuade governments and employers to consider investing in getting more bridge into schools, universities, and local communities.

### Why Bridge?

Bridge is considered by many to be the greatest card game of all, providing immense fulfilment and enjoyment over one's life. Bridge combines excitement, challenge and mental stimulation that enables players to stretch their thinking, which in turn is a good workout for brain fitness and healthy ageing. Bridge also offers opportunities to socialise and have fun. Social connection is the number one factor (more important than diet or exercise) in terms of having a longer, healthier and more meaningful life, so the social element of bridge helps us to age well.



“ Bridge is my passion as it is rewarding in so many ways: a never-ending fountain

of fascination which is fully absorbing. The appeal of bridge lies in immersing oneself in the thrill of competition amidst the social interactions of the bridge community at and away from the table. ”

Professor Samantha Punch, Scottish Bridge Player

“ Research is like bridge: you have to investigate to better understand what's going on around you. ”

Simon Fellus, World Bridge Federation (WBF) Secretary



“ It's just an amazing game really. It's the fusion of the competition, playing against two opponents,

and especially the co-operation - the partnership aspect that makes it so amazing. ”

Andrew Robson, English Bridge Player, Bridge Columnist for *The Times* and owner/teacher of the Andrew Robson Bridge Club, London



“ The European Bridge League, which administers the sport of bridge in Europe, is pleased to

lend its support to the Sociology of Bridge research projects being undertaken by the University of Stirling under the leadership of Professor Samantha Punch. Better understanding of the sociological and educational aspects of bridge, through evidence-based scientific research, will greatly enhance the development of our sport to the ultimate benefit of society. ”

Jan Kamras, European Bridge League (EBL) President (The European Bridge League has donated 6000 euros towards the Keep Bridge Alive Campaign)



“ It's an addiction that is difficult to resist. It's a pleasure and it's a passion and it's something that if you enjoy

it, you don't put it down. Professor Punch's research at the University of Stirling on the benefits of bridge is just what the bridge world needs to attract new players to our amazing card game. ”

Zia Mahmood, International Bridge Player

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Yokohama Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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)	
	10:00-18:00	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)	
	10:00-18:30	Yokohama Swiss Teams	501, 502
Sunday (Feb. 24)	10:00-18:00	Yokohama Open Pairs	501, 502
	18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony	503

Note: The finishing times for the Yokohama IMP Pairs, Swiss Teams and Open Pairs have changed

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.