



YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

It's CHINA WOMEN vs ISRAEL in the Yokohama Cup Final

In the quarter-finals the top seed, PD Times, took out home-town favorite SARA by 14imps while second seed Shanghai Jingfan lost to INDIA by 28. Third seed CHINA WOMEN won by 60imps over Shanghai Yitong and fourth seed Hackett lost by 54imps in their battle with ISRAEL. That set up the semi-finals as PD Times versus CHINA WOMEN and ISRAEL versus INDIA. Of the six matches played yesterday, all but one of the eventual winners won both halves (SARA won the 2nd half against PD Times). Both CHINA WOMEN and ISRAEL have been in fine form throughout this event, so the choice between the two in today's final may be more emotional than analytical. In a year filled with women's accomplishments and "Me Too" inspiration it is hard to bet against WOMEN. But Israel has excelled in this event over the years, having won it in 2005, 2006 and 2008 and been a finalist in 2004, where they lost to...China Ladies (no, not *these* ladies). So good luck to the two finalists and congratulations to the other teams who gave us such an exciting day of playoff bridge.

Quarter-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
PD Times	.5	32	17	49
SARA		9	26	35
Shanghai Jingfan	.5	13	19	32
INDIA		26	34	60
CHINA WOMEN	.5	27	74	101
Shanghai Yitong		25	16	41
Hackett	.5	8	24	32
ISRAEL		43	43	86

Semi-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
PD Times	.5	19	37	56
CHINA WOMEN		28	70	98
ISRAEL	.5	56	46	102
INDIA		34	28	62

Yokohama Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

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

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

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

Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature 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

Yokohama IMP Pairs — 67 pairs

Rank	Names	Score
1	Masayuki Ino Kazuhiko Yamada	2837
2	Ju Chuancheng Zou Kai	2622
3	Akihiko Yamada Kyoko Ohno	2489
4	Huo Shiyu Chen Jun	1941
5	Kelvin Ng Xing LiKun	1887
6	Li Bin Chen Yuechen	1879
7	Baron Ng Percy Wong	1862
8	Kang Meng Li Xiaoyi	1844
9	Bauke Muller Simon De Wijs	1780
10	Zhuang Zejun Chen Gang	1730
11	Chen Yunlong Shi Haojun	1672
12	Zhong Eric. Yi Qiao Xuechen	1488
13	Jimmy Chen Chris Lin	1440
14	Cecil Chan Leo Lau	1349
15	Daisuke Sugimoto Hoyee So	1272
16	Ping Zhiqiang Wu Liangkai	1246
17	Li Ka Him Jason Ho	1064
18	Zhang Zhiyu Zhang Baiji	1050
19	Daehong Kim Seungjin Roh	972
20	Wu Zhonghua Gong Jingyuan	883
21	Eric Leong Cecilia Rimstedt	761
22	Subba Ravipudi Yasuo Takeda	758
23	Zhao Jinlong Keiko Ikari	738
24	L H Chin Y C Lai	714



Yokohama IMP Pairs — 1st



Yokohama IMP Pairs — 2nd



Yokohama IMP Pairs — 3rd

Team Rosters: 22nd Yokohama Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	PD Times:	Fu Zhong, Nie Weiping, Dong Lidang, Liu Jing, Chen Ji, Patrick Huang, Li Jie (npc)
2	Shanghai Jingfan:	Lian Ruoyang, Jiang Lianqing, Gao Fei, Liu Jun, Li Guanghua, Cai Yang
3	CHINA WOMEN:	Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, Zou Kai (npc)
4	Hackett:	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, Diego Brenner
5	ISRAEL:	Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy
6	INDIA:	Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Keyzad Ankkesia, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder
7	SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Masaaki Takayama, Takeshi Niekawa, Hiroki Yokoi, Shugo Tanaka
8	Shanghai Yitong:	Zhu Bizhi, Miao Jianhua, Zhang Xianxun, Shao Zijian, Ran Jingrong, Bao Xiangdong

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

(An explanation for foreign players)

Unlike the Yokohama Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Yokohama Open Pairs are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

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

LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Yokohama Open Pairs)

Opening Bids

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

Responses and Rebids

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

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

Competitive Bids

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

Carding

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

LIST D (Yokohama Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

Yokohama Cup Quarter-finals (1st half): PD Times vs SARA

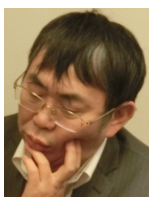
by Barry Rigal



Tanaka



Fu



Nie



Teramoto



Liu



Yokoi



Niekawa



Huang

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ Q
♥ KQ1093
♦ A72
♣ K1087

West
♠ K742
♥ 6
♦ QJ108
♣ QJ43

East
♠ J96
♥ J542
♦ 94
♣ A962

South
♠ A10853
♥ A87
♦ K653
♣ 5

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ K5
♥ AQJ109
♦ 1083
♣ J107

West
♠ Q32
♥ 876
♦ 52
♣ A9842

East
♠ AJ74
♥ K4
♦ K74
♣ KQ63

South
♠ 10986
♥ 532
♦ AQJ96
♣ 5

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Tanaka	Fu	Teramoto	Nie
Liu	Yokoi	Huang	Niekawa
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
All Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥

Fu declared 4♥ on a straightforward sequence against which a trump lead looks to be most effective — but who would do that? Teramoto led the ♦9. Declarer won in hand and led the ♠Q, rising with the ace to play a club. West split his honors, Fu ducked, and now came the trump shift. Declarer's ♥10 was allowed to hold and he next cross-ruffed spades and clubs to score all his small trumps in hand. He then cashed the ♥KQ and led a diamond towards the king. When East followed, declarer had his tenth trick.

Play followed virtually identical lines in the other room, the only fractional difference being that West did not split his ♣QJ on the first round; declarer led to the king anyway.

The second deal saw both Norths faced with a strong notrump, passed around to them. Both Fu and Yokoi let it go and, as you can see, after a spade lead declarer had at least eight tricks while 3♥ the other way looks to be comfortable. PD Times broke on top when after the ♠10 lead Yokoi put up the king and South discarded all his hearts on the run of the clubs. So Huang endplayed him in spades to lead a diamond around to the king. In the other room the defenders also led the ♠10 but defended correctly to hold declarer to +120.

In Hackett-Israel Barel-Zack did compete successfully in hearts while their teammates played 1NT. First blood to Israel. Similarly, India and Shanghai Yitong came in over 1NT to play successful partscores.

The difference between a new husband and a new dog is that after a year, the dog is still excited to see you.

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ J5
 ♥ A10965
 ♦ Q86
 ♣ A87

West
 ♠ AQ974
 ♥ 3
 ♦ K32
 ♣ Q532

East
 ♠ K10632
 ♥ Q87
 ♦ AJ105
 ♣ 4

South
 ♠ 8
 ♥ KJ42
 ♦ 974
 ♣ KJ1096

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Dbl

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
			All Pass

You could argue that the third deal was a moral victory for PD Times since the direct jump to 4♠ was available to Huang facing a limited opener, while in the other room N/S might have found their 5♣ save if the double of 4♣ had been specifically an invitation to save. While E/W could bid on to 5♠ and guess the ♦Q for +650, wouldn't they have doubled 5♣ here? I'm sure they were happy not to have been tested.

Fu led the ♥A against 4♠ (nice try), Yokoi a diamond, and PD Times had a second overtrick imp.

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A6532
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ AJ5
 ♣ QJ4

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ KJ7632
 ♦ Q873
 ♣ K73

East
 ♠ QJ84
 ♥ A1094
 ♦ K42
 ♣ A8

South
 ♠ K1097
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 1096
 ♣ 109652

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
2♥	2♠	2NT (R)	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
1♥	1♠	2♠	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Tanaka's decision to bid on with a heart void looks a practical one to me; yes, it might not work, but your hand is eminently suited to offense. 5♥ handles beautifully for +650; not enough though, thanks to that pesky ♠8. Against 4♠x Huang led the ♥A and shifted to a diamond. Declarer laid down the ♠A. When trumps went 4-0 he had no chance to escape for less than 800 since dummy would be forced with a second heart or East could get a club ruff. PD Times had +800 and led 6-0.

India collected +1100 when the Shanghai Jingfan declarer mismanaged the play in 4♠x against them.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 82
 ♥ Q104
 ♦ AK
 ♣ QJ9432

West
 ♠ QJ9
 ♥ A9863
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ 75

East
 ♠ K65
 ♥ KJ7
 ♦ 742
 ♣ K1086

South
 ♠ A10743
 ♥ 52
 ♦ QJ983
 ♣ A

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦ (R)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

It isn't clear that either South was close to being worth a drive to game. In the Open Room, had South bid 2♠ (non-forcing but encouraging) that might have got his side to the best strain and level while perhaps risking missing game (in diamonds maybe?). In the Closed Room it was harder for South to stay out of game. At each table a diamond was led and declarer still didn't seem to have much play for game without a very favorable heart position. Both Norths won the

diamond, unblocked clubs, came to the second diamond honor and played a top club. Each defender won the ♣K, cashed off the hearts, then locked declarer in dummy with the third diamond to take two spade tricks at the end for down two. No swing.

For China Women Lu Yan-Liu Yan bid 2♣-2♠-Pass to go plus; Anklesaria-Tewari also managed to stop in 2♠ for India.

Each table in our featured match then played a quiet game, making 11 tricks when one out of two finesses worked; flat around the room. Then each played a game that needed to negotiate queen-fourth of trumps, with queen-third offside. Israel stayed out of the game to pick up 6 imps while both pairs in India-Shanghai Jingfan took a phantom sacrifice for -200 and no swing.

Bd: 8
Dir: West
Vul: None

North
♠ K2
♥ K98642
♦ 9
♣ Q1075

West
♠ Q104
♥ 73
♦ AJ10
♣ AK632

East
♠ 876
♥ AQJ10
♦ K8653
♣ 4

South
♠ AJ953
♥ 5
♦ Q742
♣ J98

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
1NT	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
1NT	2♦(♥/♠)	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♥	Dbl	All Pass

3NT played very nicely on a spade lead. Declarer won the third spade, led the ♦J to tempt a cover, then rose with the king to finesse in diamonds. The entries permitted him to take three tricks in each red suit and three black suit tricks for nine. Not enough. While it looks as if 2♥x might take two clubs, two spades and two trumps, Huang led a diamond to Liu's ten, took the heart shift and played another diamond. Then Liu won the first club to play a third diamond and took the second club to play a second trump. When Huang led a fourth diamond that gave declarer three ruffs and the ♠AK but no club tricks. Huang ruffed the third club, drew North's last trump and cashed his long diamond. The defenders scored

two diamonds, four hearts and two clubs for +500 and 3 imps. Nicely done.

For Hackett, Hydes escaped for -300 to pick up 3 imps while Ran Jinrong played 2♥ undoubled for Shanghai Yitong, to escape for -100 and 7 imps.

Bd: 9
Dir: North
Vul: E/W

North
♠ K9753
♥ J5
♦ Q95
♣ KJ9

West
♠ 1086
♥ 109632
♦ 62
♣ 853

East
♠ AQ2
♥ KQ4
♦ A103
♣ A762

South
♠ J4
♥ A87
♦ KJ874
♣ Q104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♦	Dbl	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(16+)	Dbl(1)
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

(1) Diamonds or the majors

2♥ isn't a great spot here, but with the ♥J doubleton onside it seems hard to imagine it going down. Teramoto played there and brought home +110, good for a 2-imp gain when 2♦ couldn't quite come home on a trump lead. The defenders can take the first spade to lead ace and a third diamond, cutting North off from a fast entry to the spades. Then they can set up a heart and cash it when in with the ♣A. Still, 2 imps to SARA, breaking their duck on the set.

Bd: 11
Dir: South
Vul: None

North
♠ 973
♥ A62
♦ K95
♣ A1073

West
♠ 5
♥ KJ5
♦ AQ8743
♣ K82

East
♠ A1084
♥ 873
♦ J1062
♣ J9

South
♠ KQJ62
♥ Q1094
♦ ---
♣ Q654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
			1♠
2♦	2♠	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
			1♠
2♦	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both Souths clearly had so much extra for their opening bids that in one case Nie could make a game try facing a simple raise and in the other Niekawa could introduce his second suit, en route to a possible slam try. One wonders what a minimum opening bid would look like. Regardless, passing 3NT in the Closed Room looks a trifle masochistic, and the result of three down must have left South more hurt than surprised. The 4-1 trump break was just too much for Nie in 4♠ on repeated diamond leads but PD Times still had 3 undertrick imps to lead 13-2.

By contrast, both E/W pairs felt obliged to save in 5♦ over 4♠ in Women-Yitong for matching 500s.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ 108763
Vul: N/S	♥ 9
	♦ AJ32
	♣ A82

West	East
♠ QJ42	♠ AK5
♥ K1054	♥ Q32
♦ 5	♦ Q107
♣ 9754	♣ KJ63

South
♠ 9
♥ AJ876
♦ K9864
♣ Q10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥(♥+m)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Another board where N/S felt obliged to do a lot of bidding. In the Open Room the N/S methods didn't

allow South to describe a two-suiter (and yes, I can hear the audience's shout of "Then change your methods!" from here). After two rounds of spades the defenders took one trick in each side suit and three trump tricks. The good news for SARA was that her team reached diamonds. The bad news was that they played game. All their values were in the right places but there weren't enough of them. Declarer ended up scoring three side-suit tricks (trump lead, spade ducked, shift to the ♣K) but when declarer drew a second round of trumps and found the bad news he could do no better than take six trumps separately for down 200, 3 more imps to PD Times.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ 105
Vul: Both	♥ KJ32
	♦ 98753
	♣ Q5

West	East
♠ AKQJ72	♠ 83
♥ AQ95	♥ 86
♦ Q	♦ AKJ102
♣ AK	♣ J1094

South
♠ 964
♥ 1074
♦ 64
♣ 87632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
		2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣(♦)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣(1/4)	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦(♦K)	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Teramoto's off-center preempt meant E/W didn't have an easy way to explore here. In the end Tanaka didn't make much of an effort to look for the grand slam and even 6♦ on a heart lead might have been awkward. But South led a spade so declarer could simply draw trump and concede a trick to the ♦9. In the other room the strong club sequence saw Huang show his diamond cards but deny the ♦Q, I believe. (With that card he might have bid the grand slam over 5NT.)

When Liu expressed continued interest it wasn't clear how much more Huang could have and not have co-operated on an earlier round of the auction. Plus, he was limited to 10 HCP for not having opened. His final call wasn't easy, but since a diamond lead beats 7♠, if not 7NT, who can say if he did well or badly? The defenders *did* lead diamonds against 6♠, so it looks like Huang did save his side a big swing out.

At various ends of the spectrum of optimism and pessimism both tables missed slam in China Women-Shanghai Yitong, while Israel bid to a grand slam after West had opened 2♣ and East had relayed while disclosing nothing of his shape. When Hydes led a club rather than a diamond a 30-imp swing had gone Israel's way and not Hackett's.

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ A64
 Vul: None ♥ 1084
 ♦ J75
 ♣ A863

West
 ♠ Q1095
 ♥ AQ752
 ♦ 2
 ♣ J104

East
 ♠ K
 ♥ 963
 ♦ AKQ106
 ♣ Q952

South
 ♠ J8732
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ 9843
 ♣ K7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠(1)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Non-game-forcing Smolen

Closed Room

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

SARA finally caught a real break when both tables deemed the East hand to be a notrump opener albeit one went for 13-16 and one for 15-17. Accordingly, the two Wests settled for partscore and game respectively, and Nie had to lead a black suit to beat the game. He settled for a diamond, letting declarer shake all the club losers while North ruffed in with his trump trick. That meant an eventual +480 for SARA and 7 imps, making it 18-9. Shanghai Jingfan found the same swing against India, while Mossop for

Hackett ventured into -500 territory by balancing with 2♠ over 2♥.

Just when SARA had gotten back into the match, they shot themselves in the foot.

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ K8
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1093
 ♦ J107
 ♣ 95432

West
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ A87654
 ♦ 963
 ♣ 106

East
 ♠ AJ975
 ♥ J2
 ♦ AK8
 ♣ AK8

South
 ♠ 10432
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ Q542
 ♣ QJ7

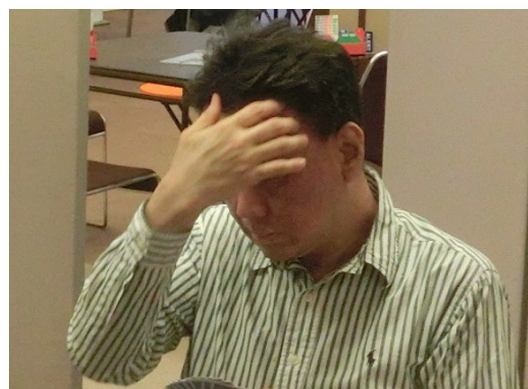
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nie</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(16+)	Pass
1♦(0-7)	Pass	1♥(19+)	Pass
2♦(♥)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Everyone played hearts here except in our featured match, where Teramoto's decision not to open or rebid 2NT hamstrung West into guessing what to do at his final turn. To add insult to injury Fu led hearts against 3NT but, though declarer could duck the first and then set up the suit later, he couldn't reach them when the ♠K turned up offside. It was 32-9 at set end to PD Times.



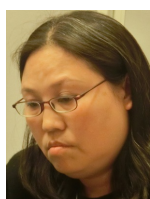
"Oh, no, I coulda had a V8!"

Yokohama Cup Quarter-finals (2nd half): CHINA WOMEN vs Shanghai Yitong

by Rich Colker



Shao



Lu



Liu



Ran



Shen



Zhu



Bao



Wang

The CHINA WOMEN entered the second half of their quarter-final match against Shanghai Yitong leading by 2 imps, 27-25, so it's anyone's match. Who will win? Only The Shadow knows and *he* isn't talking...at least not to us. We're off!

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ AKJ5
 Vul: None ♥ K9
 ♦ 3
 ♣ J109852

West
 ♠ 962
 ♥ AQ642
 ♦ J742
 ♣ A

East
 ♠ 843
 ♥ 1087
 ♦ K986
 ♣ K73

South
 ♠ Q107
 ♥ J53
 ♦ AQ105
 ♣ Q64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lu	Ran	Liu
	2♣	Pass	2♦(F)
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zhu	Wang	Bao
	2♣	Pass	2♦(F)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT(R)
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Looking at all four hands one can work out that no game makes against best defense (3NT and 5♣ have obvious shortcomings while 4♠ will succumb to

repeated heart leads). In the Open Room Lu lost the obvious three tricks in 5♣, -50, while in the Closed Room Zhu also lost those same three tricks but since he was only in 3♣ scored +130; 5 imps to Shanghai, taking the lead at 27-30.

Yokoi-Niekawa did reach 4♠ from the North seat on a heart lead. Repeated heart leads set the game but was it so unreasonable to assume that the ♣K and ♥K were the other way around? Were that so, repeated heart leads would accomplish nothing but the defense of cashing the ♣A and leading back hearts would obtain the ruff to beat the game. Good idea, but the wrong moment for it, so 4♠ came home.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ K107
 Vul: N/S ♥ J532
 ♦ A53
 ♣ KJ10

West
 ♠ AQ9
 ♥ K87
 ♦ J8
 ♣ AQ986

East
 ♠ J8542
 ♥ 10964
 ♦ K
 ♣ 743

South
 ♠ 63
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ Q1097642
 ♣ 52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lu	Ran	Liu
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zhu	Wang	Bao
		Pass	3♦
Dbl	Pass	3♠	All Pass

In the Open Room Shao was allowed an unimpeded auction to 2♠, Liu displaying remarkable restraint (some — not us — might call it timidity) in the auction. And while 2♠ appears to have more than its fair share of potential losers (we count 6), South has only limited entries to assist in the defense. Lu led a heart to Liu's ace and she found what appears to be the best switch: the ♣5, ducked to Lu's ten. Apparently Lu interpreted Liu's spot card as low and continued the suit, tabling the king. "Thank you very much," said the Shanghai fans in the cheap seats. Shao now played the ♠A followed by the ♠Q. Lu won, took the ♦A, then tried to cash the ♣J (or give Liu a ruff). When neither happened Shao won the queen and effectively claimed the rest, +140.

In the Closed Room Wang played at a level higher so the stakes were that much greater. Bao got off to the best lead for the defense, the ♣5, ducked to the ten. Zhu cashed the ♦A, noting the fall of declarer's king, and continued the suit as declarer ruffed. Next came the losing trump finesse and a second trump was returned to dummy's ace. A third spade went to the jack followed by a low club, ducked, as declarer conceded down one, -50; 5 more imps to Shanghai, leading now by 8 at 27-35.

But the "Empire" was about to strike back.

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ AJ10
Vul: E/W	♥ Q75
	♦ KQJ2
	♣ KQJ

West	East
♠ 83	♠ K742
♥ AJ6	♥ 10
♦ 1098764	♦ A5
♣ 82	♣ A109653
	South
	♠ Q965
	♥ K98432
	♦ 3
	♣ 74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lu	Ran	Liu
			Pass
Pass	1♣*	2♣	Dbl*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦(♥)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zhu	Wang	Bao
			Pass
Pass	1♣*	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

N/S in both rooms executed Precision-type auctions leading to heart contracts, but for some reason Zhu-Bao in the Closed Room exhibited an unwarranted degree of optimism. Bao's auction, Stayman followed by 4♥, suggested at least 4-6 in the majors (at least six hearts to insist on game there plus at least four spades, else why bid Stayman first?) so Zhu's picture gallery in the minors was likely worth at most one trick. Plus, while Zhu's major-suit holdings were not bad, they were not all that impressive either. Of course another possibility is that 4♥ was interpreted as a transfer.

Shen's double was clearly based on partner's vulnerable overcall of a strong club and a useful trump holding. The play went quickly. Shen led the ♦10 to the ace followed by ace and a second club. Zhu led a heart to the king and ace and later finessed West for the jack. Down one, -100.

In the Open Room 4♥ was played from the other side though the defense began pretty much the same, with Ran cashing the two minor-suit aces and exiting with a club. Lu did well in the absence of any adverse bidding to lead a trump to the king and ace (noting the fall of the ♥10). She won the spade return with the ace, pitched dummy's remaining spades on the diamonds, ruffed a spade to dummy, and finessed Shao for the ♥J; +420. That was 11 imps back to CHINA WOMEN, who regained the lead by 3 at 38-35. Lu was the only declarer to make game here, though Anklesaria for India stopped in 3♥ and made +170.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ 4
Vul: Both	♥ 109643
	♦ QJ3
	♣ 10732

West	East
♠ Q10762	♠ AJ853
♥ K	♥ AJ85
♦ A98	♦ K5
♣ AK94	♣ J6
	South
	♠ K9
	♥ Q72
	♦ 107642
	♣ Q85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Ran</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1♠	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦(♦K)	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bao</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Both tables arrived in slam, the CHINA WOMEN stopping in six when they discovered they were missing a Key Card, the Yitong team driving to seven despite the missing Key Card (presumably it was known to be the ♠K and not an ace). Perhaps they were influenced by the state of the match or perhaps, after the previous deal, someone miscounted keycards. Both declarers lost just the trump finesse (1430 vs 100), a 17-imp gain for CHINA WOMEN, whose lead had now grown to 20 at 55-35.

Board 21 was a push when both E/W pairs bid and made 6♦ (off only queen-fourth of trumps, which today was unnegotiable, as both Shanghai Jingfan and Israel discovered, while PD Times picked up a swing when their opponents missed slam altogether). Board 22 was also pushed when both N/S pairs bid and made 4♥. And Board 23 was yet another push when both E/W pairs bid 4♠ and made an overtrick.

Bd: 24
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
♠ ---
♥ QJ97
♦ AJ108432
♣ Q4

West	East
♠ J10765	♠ Q98432
♥ K85432	♥ A6
♦ ---	♦ Q
♣ 76	♣ AKJ10

South
♠ AK
♥ 10
♦ K9765
♣ 98532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Ran</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠*
4♠	5♦	5♠	DbI
Pass	6♦	DbI	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bao</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠*
4♠	5♦	5♠	DbI
All Pass			

Both rooms executed identical auctions to 5♠x, but in the Open Room Lu, with her light opening and spade void, plus huge extra diamond length, decided not to trust her partner. And right she was: 5♠x proved to be cold (650) and 6♦ was down only two (300). Another 8imps to CHINA WOMEN, leading now by 28 at 63-35. Five tables out of eight bid on to 6♦; nicely done!

On Board 25 both N/S pairs played 3NT from North when declarer had nine tricks (and only four losers) thanks to the club suit splitting 4-4. No swing.

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
♠ Q762
♥ 1097
♦ A832
♣ 63

West	East
♠ A3	♠ K85
♥ 86532	♥ J4
♦ Q76	♦ KJ1094
♣ AQ8	♣ 742
South	
♠ J1094	
♥ AKQ	
♦ 5	
♣ KJ1095	

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Ran</i>	<i>Liu</i>
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bao</i>
		Pass	2♣
All Pass			

Both Souths opened a natural 2♣ and played there. In the Open Room Liu won the ♥2 lead and tabled the ♣K. Shao won the ace, switched to ace and another spade, received a ruff on the third round of the suit, and got out with a second heart. Liu won and led a second club to the queen and now Shao led a third heart for Ran to ruff. But Ran pitched a low diamond (intent on signaling for a lead through dummy's ace) and declarer won, drew the last trump, and claimed eight tricks; +90.

In the Closed Room the defense also began with a heart but at trick two Bao chose to attack spades by leading the ten. Shen rose ace, returned a spade to Wang's king and ruffed the third spade return, exiting with a second heart. Bao led the ♣9 to the queen

and now Shen tried a diamond to dummy's ace. A second club went to Shen's ace and now Shen got the message and returned a third heart for Wang to ruff. Down one, -100, 5 imps to WOMEN, leading now 68-35.

Board 27 was a push when both N/S pairs went down one in 4♥ in a no-play special. Still 68-35.

Bd: 28 North
 Dir: West ♠ KQ92
 Vul: N/S ♥ 5
 ♦ AK5432
 ♣ A7

West
 ♠ 10654
 ♥ AK106
 ♦ ---
 ♣ KQ864

East
 ♠ AJ8
 ♥ Q9872
 ♦ 108
 ♣ 1052

South
 ♠ 73
 ♥ J43
 ♦ QJ976
 ♣ J93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Ran</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1♣	Dbl	1♥	Pass
3♥	4♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bao</i>
2♥*	3♣*	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Both rooms played high-level heart contracts but that's where the similarities ended. In the Open Room against Ran's 5♥x Liu led the ♠7, 4, Q, A. Ran drew trumps in three rounds ending in hand and led a club to the king and ace. Lu tapped dummy with the ♦K and when the ♣Q failed to bring down the jack Ran claimed nine tricks; -300.

In the Closed Room the contract was a level lower but also doubled. Zhu led a trump to dummy's seven, which held, and Shen immediately led a club to the king and ace. Now, when a club came back to the nine and queen, Shen could draw trumps and concede a club, with a trump as an entry to her good clubs; +590, 13 more imps to CHINA WOMEN, leading now by 46 at 81-35.

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ 9
 Vul: Both ♥ AK98
 ♦ AK7
 ♣ 109654

West
 ♠ Q8643
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ Q8642
 ♣ 7

East
 ♠ AJ1072
 ♥ 653
 ♦ J3
 ♣ QJ8

South
 ♠ K5
 ♥ J1072
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ AK32

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Ran</i>	<i>Liu</i>
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bao</i>
	1♦*	1♠	Dbl
4♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Identical auctions in the two rooms here did not lead to identical results, although both contracts were in serious peril of conceding a big number. In the Open Room Liu led the ♣A, saw Lu signal with the ♣10, and switched to the ♥J, which held. Next came a second heart to the king and the ♠9 came back, ducked to Liu's king, and now Ran still had two inescapable diamonds to lose and conceded down three, -800.

In the Closed Room the defense began as in the other room except when Zhu led the ♠9 at trick 4 Wang went up with the ace, ruffed a heart to dummy, then led a small diamond. Zhu went up king as Wang and Bao both followed low. Zhu exited with a club: jack, ace, ruff, and now a second diamond was called from dummy. BBO stops at this point saying that declarer now claimed 8 tricks, which suggests that Zhu ducked and Wang's jack won the trick. So, who is to blame for this? Bao, who could have played the ♦10 on the first diamond to deny the jack or Zhu, who had a complete count on the hand and had to know that this was the only trick that mattered? You be the judge. That was 7 more imps to CHINA WOMEN, whose lead had grown to 53 at 88-35.

On Board 30 both E/W pairs played game in a major.

We're told that married men live longer than single men. Yeah, but married men are a lot more willing to die.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K983
 ♥ 6
 ♦ J95
 ♣ KQJ82

West
 ♠ A5
 ♥ QJ1053
 ♦ KQ1043
 ♣ A

East
 ♠ QJ764
 ♥ A98
 ♦ A62
 ♣ 74

South
 ♠ 102
 ♥ K742
 ♦ 87
 ♣ 109653

Yitong played in 4♠ on the 5-2 fit, WOMEN in 4♥ on the 5-3 fit. The record says that both declarers made 11 tricks for a push at +450. Still 88-35. (A club lead defeats 4♠ if the defense stays alert, but the VuGraph record says the lead was a diamond.) The hand is below for anyone wishing to try to work out how to make +450 in 4♠ from the East on a non-club lead. And our sympathies to Hackett-Senior who tried the respectable 6♥ and found both the outstanding finesses losing.

Bd: 31
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J83
 ♥ AQ94
 ♦ K105
 ♣ A87

West
 ♠ Q92
 ♥ J108765
 ♦ J7
 ♣ K10

East
 ♠ 10654
 ♥ 32
 ♦ 632
 ♣ 9653

South
 ♠ AK7
 ♥ K
 ♦ AQ984
 ♣ QJ42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lu	Ran	Liu
			1♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zhu	Wang	Bao
			1♣*
DbI(♥)	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

There was not much to the play as 12 tricks are readily available via two spades, three hearts, five diamonds and two clubs. N/S for Yitong in the Closed Room may have been thrown off by the

interference, perhaps not certain of the point range for their subsequent notrump bids. When both tables made 12 tricks, 1440 versus 690, that was 13 more imps to CHINA WOMEN, whose lead had ballooned to 66 at 101-35.

And finally, a victory (even if Pyrrhic) for Yitong.

Bd: 32
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ Q32
 ♦ 95432
 ♣ KQ

West
 ♠ 982
 ♥ J1098
 ♦ A8
 ♣ 9874

East
 ♠ J1074
 ♥ A
 ♦ KQJ6
 ♣ A1052

South
 ♠ K65
 ♥ K7654
 ♦ 107
 ♣ J63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lu	Ran	Liu
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	DbI	2♥
Pass	Pass	DbI	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zhu	Wang	Bao
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	DbI	2♥

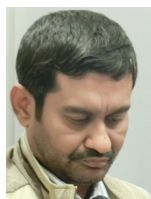
All Pass

Against Zhao's 3♣ in the Open Room Lu led the ♦2. Shao won, led a second diamond to dummy and called for a third diamond. Liu ruffed with the ♣6 and Zhao overruffed with the ♣7, then crossed with a heart and advanced the fourth diamond, again ruffed low and overruffed. In the end Shao lost just one trump trick and scored up +110.

In the Closed Room Shen led the ♠2 against Bao's 2♥. Bao won the ace in dummy and tried a low heart, thus holding his trump losers to two. That, combined with his unavoidable three minor-suit losers, earned him eight tricks and a +110 to go with his teammates' +110 in the other room; 6 imps to Yitong, making the final score 101-41. Congratulations to CHINA WOMEN who advance to the Yokohama Cup semi-finals. They take on PD Times, while the egoistical I-Teams (India and Israel) would try to put each others' I's out.

Yokohama Cup Semi-finals (1st half): ISRAEL vs INDIA

by Barry Rigal



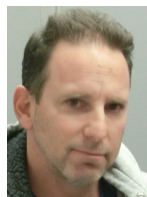
Mukherjee



Barel



Majumder



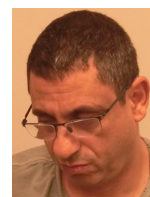
Lengy



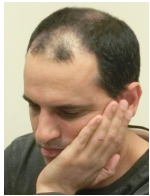
Anklesaria



Tewari



Bareket



Zack

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ J107
♥ AJ94
♦ KJ94
♣ K4

West
♠ Q853
♥ 72
♦ 7653
♣ A75

East
♠ K96
♥ KQ1083
♦ A
♣ J832

South
♠ A42
♥ 65
♦ Q1082
♣ Q1096

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

The auctions were identical until Tewari balanced with 3♦, confident his partner had to have diamond length since the opponents clearly had 7+ spades between them. Against 2♠ Bareket led the ♠J. Declarer won in hand, led a heart to the king, a club to the ace, then a second heart up. When North won he could see two rounds of trumps would achieve nothing. So he exited to dummy's ♦A. Now came the ♥Q, ruffed and overruffed, then diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff for eight tricks.

Against 3♦ Bareket's top heart lead was ducked. A shift to spades helped set up the suit for declarer (what else could East do?). Lengy won his ♠Q to play a second heart. Declarer won the ♥A and advanced the ♣K. The defenders could take one trick in each suit but no more. India had +110 in each room and led 6-0.

In our other match Fu played 2NT for PD Times after opening the North hand 1NT. He ducked the heart lead and Wenfei Wang found an imaginative shift to the ♠K; had Fu not held the ♠10 this would have scored a huge goal. As it was, declarer had just enough firepower to survive by winning the spade and driving out the ♦A. In the other room Chen played 3♦ on a top heart, ducked, and a spade shift. Liu continued spades and declarer made the mistake of ruffing two hearts in dummy early, which let West pitch two clubs, and now declarer never scored a club trick. So 3♦ went down a trick and PD Times had 5 imps.

Time for some germ warfare (still not outlawed by the Geneva convention).

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ Q9872
♥ J3
♦ KJ109
♣ Q2

West
♠ J105
♥ AK84
♦ Q42
♣ 743

East
♠ A643
♥ Q1075
♦ 75
♣ 865

South
♠ K
♥ 962
♦ A863
♣ AKJ109

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
3♥	3♠	2♥(♠+♥)	Dbl
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

The Indians found their eight-card fit but at a very uncomfortable level, whereas the Israelis had all the time in the world to stop low and avoid trouble. Diamonds handled for 10 tricks, clubs for 11, and Israel had 5 imps to trail 6-5. Credit the opening bid for that. And yes, 3♥x was going to cost at least 300. Where's that egg you need to break for the omelet?

All four E/W pairs then handled a transfer-break auction well to get to a decent major-suit game that might conceivably have been missed without this gadget. Then came a testing play and defense hand.

Bd: 4
Dir: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ AQ1096
♥ Q8
♦ J92
♣ AK5

West	East
♠ 8	♠ KJ753
♥ A43	♥ 1075
♦ Q1085	♦ K64
♣ QJ1086	♣ 92

South
♠ 42
♥ KJ962
♦ A73
♣ 743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Easts did remarkably well to avoid a spade lead, and while neither could put their fingers on the diamond lead that would have taken out dummy's

entry, the ♣9 left the result in the balance.

Barel won the club to clear hearts. West won and played a top club, declarer ducking, then shifted to a low diamond. Now Barel either paid his opponents a huge compliment or was influenced by action at the table when he put up the jack rather than inserting the nine. Once East covered that, declarer's fate was sealed. He ducked the diamond to win the next and run the hearts. When he took the spade finesse, the defenders cashed out the diamonds for three down.

In the other room Bareket's club lead went to the ten and king. Again declarer cleared hearts but at this table he won the second club and (not knowing the suit was 5-2) tried the effect of the ♠10 from hand, planning to take the finesse for the ♠Q later. Bareket ducked the ♠10, and while this looks silly, was it so likely the suit was divided in this way? That was declarer's ninth trick and India had 13 imps to lead 19-5.

In our other match both tables led clubs (PD Times from the easy side, Wenfei Wang for China Women from the hard) and PD Times picked up the extra undertrick.

Bd: 5
Dir: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 103
♥ KQ105
♦ K7542
♣ QJ

West	East
♠ 95	♠ KJ87
♥ AJ98432	♥ 6
♦ QJ	♦ A10863
♣ 54	♣ A72

South
♠ AQ642
♥ 7
♦ 9
♣ K109863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♥(NF)	Pass	Pass	3♣
3♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦(♥)	All Pass		

When the journalist reads the report from the table action there are sometimes deals where he is missing vital information that only an eye-witness can supply. The Open Room action makes perfect sense:

everyone takes an aggressive position and N/S apply the axe and find the cards well-placed for that decision. After a club lead declarer lost three hearts and three black-suit tricks, for -300.

But in the Closed Room...? We know 2♦ was alerted (behind screens) as hearts...but did East alert it as well as West? Did he pass a forcing bid or forget the system? South was not inclined to re-open here; he knew what West meant for his bid, but did not know if East knew it too!

Tewari led his singleton heart against 2♦. Declarer ducked a club and North shifted to diamonds. Declarer won in dummy and repeated the finesse, getting the good news and the bad news. He could now take five trump tricks and two aces but did not have enough time to build a spade trick since repeated club leads would force him. Down one, but still 6 imps to Israel, trailing 19-11.

China Women did even better on defense, doubling 2♥ and then the escape to 3♦ for 500 while escaping undoubled in 3♥ for down 100. That gave them the lead at 12-8.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q7
 Vul: E/W ♥ A8743
 ♦ 753
 ♣ QJ6

West
 ♠ 9
 ♥ KJ962
 ♦ QJ1042
 ♣ A8

East
 ♠ KJ54
 ♥ 105
 ♦ 98
 ♣ 105432

South
 ♠ A108632
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AK6
 ♣ K97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

I confess to being rather surprised by the two auctions here. I can quite see why Anklesaria went low, though had he passed out 2♥x and led a top club it would have been easy enough for the

defenders to win the first diamond and shift to the ♥Q, after which spades through from North will set 2♥x at least 500. In 2♠, after a diamond lead, Tewari led a spade to the queen and king, passed the ♠7, and later arranged a trump coup to come to 10 tricks. Nicely done.

By contrast, Barel did not play for penalties but certainly went higher than his counterpart. He found himself in a reasonable 3NT after being able to rebid a natural 2NT over his partner's double, which strikes me as an unusual treatment in these days of artificiality. He won the ♥10 lead, covered all around, then crossed to a top club in dummy. Mukherjee won and shifted to diamonds, so declarer won and played a spade to the queen and king. Back came a diamond to establish the suit while West still had a heart entry. Barel was able to take the spade finesse but when the suit broke 4-1 he had only 7 tricks and India had 7 imps, to lead 28-11.

Both tables played game in China Women-PD Times. 4♠ on a diamond lead saw Zhao Bing follow the line of play discussed above. She won the diamond and led a spade to the queen and king, won the diamond return to cross to the ♥A to pass the ♠7, ruff a heart, and reach this position:

♠ ---
 ♥ 874
 ♦ 7
 ♣ QJ6

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J96
 ♦ J10
 ♣ A8

East
 ♠ J5
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 105432

South
 ♠ A108
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K97

Here Zhao was careful to lead out the ♣K (a small club does not work here). What can West do? At the table he ducked, won the next club, but now had to cash a diamond and then shorten declarer and although that let East discard twice he still had to follow to the third club. With the lead in dummy at trick 12 the trump coup was complete.

After all that it was a mild anti-climax that in the other room Fu brought home 3NT from the North seat by running the ♠Q from hand at trick two after a heart lead. Just 1 imp to China Women.

The merry-go-round revolved again, as the teams continued to exchange big swings.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ AQ106
 Vul: Both ♥ AJ1065432
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 2

West
 ♠ 75432
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 76
 ♣ KQ976

East
 ♠ KJ98
 ♥ K98
 ♦ AK
 ♣ AJ83

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 7
 ♦ QJ10985432
 ♣ 1054

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
Pass	4♥	Dbl	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		

Lengy had no trouble finding a club lead and collecting his side's top tricks, Mukherjee had an equally easy lead of his singleton heart, after which declarer could discard a club on the ♥A and escape for -500. (This defense for -500 was duplicated in our other match.)

India now led 26-18 and added an overtrick imp before something more serious came along.

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ 64
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q9852
 ♦ 752
 ♣ Q98

West
 ♠ KQ1052
 ♥ AK10
 ♦ A
 ♣ 7432

East
 ♠ 87
 ♥ J64
 ♦ Q9864
 ♣ AK10

South
 ♠ AJ93
 ♥ 73
 ♦ KJ103
 ♣ J65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
1♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At both tables the opening lead was the ♣5 to North's queen. Both declarers took it and played a spade up, South contributing the three, but there the paths diverged. Majunder put up the king and ducked a spade, then won the diamond return and ducked another spade. This was spectacularly unsuccessful as the cards lay, since now he had to lose three spades, and the unfriendly lie in the other suits ensured his doom. Bareket led a spade to the ten on the first round and was far better placed. He continued with a top spade, won the diamond shift, played two more rounds of spades, and now knew South could have no more than two hearts. So when South shifted to a heart he rose ace, cashed all the major-suit winners, and led a club to his king, planning to endplay South with the ♣J. When South unblocked the ♣J declarer cashed the ♣10 for the ninth trick.

In our other semi-final Patrick Huang declared 3NT on a club lead and tried a spade to the ten at trick two. Play continued in identical fashion to Bareket's line except that when Zhao Bing won the fourth spade she deviously shifted to her low heart, not the top from a doubleton. Now declarer won the ♥K and cashed the spade winner. Since North had already discarded two hearts only the ♥Q and two small hearts were outstanding. So instead of trying for the endplay in clubs (South had not bid diamonds so there was no clue about that suit) Huang led the ace and a third heart. That let Chen win her ♥Q and take her partner off the endplay. Very nicely done for down one.

Wenfei Wang declared 3NT on a heart lead against silent opponents. She came to a top club and led a spade to dummy's 10, then continued with a top club. The defenders exited in diamonds and she cleared spades, won the next club in hand and cashed the remaining heart and spade winners to endplay South in exactly the same fashion as Bareket had. A well-earned 12 imps for China Women to give them the lead at 27-8.

India then pushed to a hopeless heart game and were somewhat fortunate that all it cost was a vulnerable undertrick when even 3♥, the contract reached in the other room after a competitive sequence, proved too difficult. PD Times reduced the lead to single digits when their opponents under-competed and sold out at the two level.

Thus far most of the swings had arisen from reasonable actions. But the largest swing of the set was about to arise...and I'm not sure we can be so charitable this time.

Bd: 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ ---
 ♥ KJ7
 ♦ K10986
 ♣ KJ854

West
 ♠ 863
 ♥ A106
 ♦ 7543
 ♣ 1063

East
 ♠ 9754
 ♥ 9532
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ 72

South
 ♠ AKQJ102
 ♥ Q84
 ♦ A
 ♣ AQ9

Bd: 15
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K97
 ♥ KQ954
 ♦ K87
 ♣ 65

West
 ♠ AJ85
 ♥ A87
 ♦ A109
 ♣ QJ8

East
 ♠ 32
 ♥ 6
 ♦ J6543
 ♣ K10974

South
 ♠ Q1064
 ♥ J1032
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ A32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥(1)
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠

All Pass

(1) slamish in spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	7♠

All Pass

At the table when Tewari was asked about the 4NT bid South suggested that it didn't exist. Curiously I would have thought the North hand was the prototype for that action. Regardless, the grand slam was a 75% contract, making on three leads out of four, and had West not held the ♥A he might well have led a trump, I suppose. Unlucky, up to a point, one might say.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Zack</i>
1NT	Pass	2NT(♦)	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
1♣	1♥	3♣	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

The strong notrump stole the pot in the Open Room. Majumder transferred to diamonds (was he planning to pass a 3♣ rejection?). 3♦ played comfortably enough, but 5♣x was struggling to get out for down one. I suspect Bareket was expecting a more suitable hand for clubs for the 3♠ bid? Certainly West might have doubled 4♥, mightn't he? The set ended at 55-34, Israel, while China Women led PD Times 28-19.

The gene pool could use a little chlorine



"I suppose you're wondering why I called you all here."



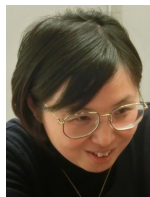
"What are you talking about? You passed a transfer!"



"It's a certainty...if we don't bid they can't double us!"

Yokohama Cup Semi-finals (2nd half): PD Times vs CHINA WOMEN

by Barry Rigal



Shen



Jing



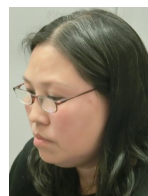
Wang



Huang



Chen



Lu



Liu



Dong

China Women entered the second half with a lead of 9imps. On what was going to be a wild set, PD Times recaptured the lead at once.

Bd: 17 North
 Dlr: North ♠ A86
 Vul: None ♥ Q2
 ♦ AQ982
 ♣ J109

West
 ♠ 542
 ♥ 86
 ♦ J107
 ♣ Q7653

East
 ♠ KJ973
 ♥ 94
 ♦ K543
 ♣ 84

South
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ AKJ10753
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AK2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♦(1+)	1♠	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦ (Spl.)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
	1NT	Pass	4♦(♥)
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Once Lu Yan had shown a likely 11-13 and her partner made a slam try, it seems to me that her aces and trump honors (not to mention the club intermediates) more than make up for the wasted ♦Q. I'm not sure if you should take control but you should surely cuebid 4♠. Over the 4♥ sign-off chosen at the table Liu Yan found a disciplined pass, and

there the matter rested.

Of course the cards lie fairly badly for the heart slam reached in the other room, but Lu Jing won the trump lead, led a low spade towards the queen, and had his 12th trick at once. Both tables played slam in the other match.

Two quiet games followed before the action started up again.

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ K85
 Vul: Both ♥ 9763
 ♦ QJ85
 ♣ A10

West
 ♠ AQJ9632
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 32
 ♣ 954

East
 ♠ 104
 ♥ KQJ1052
 ♦ ---
 ♣ KQJ32

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ A8
 ♦ AK109764
 ♣ 876

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
3♠	Pass	4♥	5♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

No one wants to go to their grave with "Outbid by a girl" as the epitaph on their tombstone. Liu certainly bought the perfect dummy for her only mildly extravagant action. Once she bid, her opponents

could not go plus, even if they might have been able to limit the damage somewhat. 5♦ needs hearts 6-1 (no surprise there) so that declarer can win the heart lead, draw trump, then play a spade up to get the heart loser away on the ♠K. Easy-peasy.

4♥ wasn't cold, though. After a diamond lead, ruffed, Wang advanced the ♥J. Huang, who wasn't born yesterday, won his ace and shifted to a spade. Wang took the ace, led a club, and now when North ducked, the hand was over; declarer could win and draw trumps for ten tricks. Had North taken the ♣A to play two more rounds of spades, the ♥9 promotes. As it was, China Women had 15 imps and led 43-30.

In India-Israel Majumder-Mukherjee bid 3♠-Pass-4♠-All Pass. The final pass seems even more surprising than in our first match. While 4♠ went down one, Satyanarayana did bid 5♦ after the same start in the other room. Those 11 imps made it 60-45, Israel.

Then came a beautiful pair of results for the declarers sitting South.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 852
 Vul: E/W ♥ K32
 ♦ A3
 ♣ 109875

West ♠ 1097 ♥ 64 ♦ K9862 ♣ J32	East ♠ AQJ64 ♥ 10985 ♦ J4 ♣ Q4
--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

South
 ♠ K3
 ♥ AQJ7
 ♦ Q1075
 ♣ AK6

Open Room

West <i>Chen</i>	North <i>Lu</i>	East <i>Dong</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West <i>Shen</i>	North <i>Jing</i>	East <i>Wang</i>	South <i>Huang</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Wests obediently led the ♠10 and both Easts let South win the ♠K, of course. Huang ran the hearts, and when West discarded a spade he cashed the ♣AK and exited in spades. East was forced to

overtake and cash all the spades but one. Then she exited with her low diamond but the auction had made it easy for Huang to know that as a passed hand the ♦K must be to his right.

In the other room Liu Yan won the spade and exited in spades. Dong took this and shifted to a low club. Liu riposted by winning, crossing to the ♥K and playing a third spade. Now East had to cash out or declarer could establish clubs in safety and now West was caught in a club-diamond squeeze unless East exited in diamonds, in which case no misguess would be possible.

Both tables bid and made 3NT in our other matches. Both declarers won the spade and exited in spades, and each defense cashed out the spades, making declarer's task somewhat easier than in our featured match.

he deal below was a poster child for strong clubs (a 10-count with six diamonds facing a strong club let the big hand ask for aces and bid a grand slam). Natural methods struggled in the other match with Israel playing game and gifting India 16 imps. Israel's lead was down to 1 imp.

North ♠ J3 ♥ 1092 ♦ KQ9752 ♣ A9	South ♠ AKQ105 ♥ AK54 ♦ AJ4 ♣ 3
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

China Women's lead rose to 17 when Dong led a speculative ♦K from ♦K10 against a partscore to lose the setting trick in that suit. But big swings entertain the reader, and there were plenty still to come.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ 102
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q852
 ♦ 9542
 ♣ 852

West ♠ --- ♥ 1073 ♦ AJ108763 ♣ A97	East ♠ KJ875 ♥ A96 ♦ Q ♣ KQJ3
------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

South
 ♠ AQ9643
 ♥ KJ4
 ♦ K
 ♣ 1064

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
	Pass	1♣(16+)	1♠
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

I suppose one could make a case for leading the ♥J here, but why shouldn't the ♠J and ♠10 be reversed? Huang led a low spade to the ten and jack. When Wang then advanced the ♦Q and saw it covered by the ♦K she might have ducked, I suppose. Still, her spades were good enough to play for the maximum. She took the ♦K, knocked out the ♦9, and when a club came back she claimed 12 tricks.

It hardly mattered given the auction from the other room. I am not sure if West could have jumped to 3♦ over 2♣ and if not whether East should bid 2♥ or 2NT at his third turn. Regardless, the excellent game went begging and +150 was not much of a return. China had 11imps and led 59-31.

Israel had picked up imps in dribs and drabs to lead 68-61. But PD Times was clearly in need of a big swing if they were to stay in with a chance of catching their opponents. With six deals left, they were granted a ray of hope.

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ A6
 Vul: None ♥ 73
 ♦ K106
 ♣ KJ9652

West	East
♠ 1097	♠ K2
♥ A542	♥ KJ10
♦ 752	♦ QJ9843
♣ 873	♣ 104
	South
	♠ QJ8543
	♥ Q986
	♦ A
	♣ AQ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
			1♣(16+)
Pass	1NT(♣)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With West having a choice of minors to lead, much would depend on whether dummy had actually shown clubs. After a diamond lead declarer had a choice of approaches. But Huang knew that his opponents didn't know the clubs were running. So he simply ran the ♠J, and when East won and returned a top diamond he was home. He could draw trump and run clubs for +480.

Liu played a more technical line after a club lead. She won, ducked a heart, then won the diamond return and ducked another heart. Now East thoughtfully played a third heart. Declarer, who couldn't see through the backs of the cards, ruffed the heart, cashed the ♠A, played the ♦K pitching the ♥Q, ruffed a diamond, and led out the ♠Q to the king. Back came the fourth diamond, promoting the ♠10 to the setting trick.

In Israel-India Zack duplicated Huang's line. Here, though, declarer had even more going for him in that he had bid hearts. The defenders duplicated the misdefense and Israel had 6 imps, since India had settled in 2♠.

Whether or not PD Times thought they were back in with a chance, they were about to be disabused of that idea in fairly ruthless fashion.

Bd: 28 North
 Dir: West ♠ 5
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQJ85432
 ♦ 73
 ♣ 105

West	East
♠ 632	♠ AKQJ9874
♥ 10	♥ 9
♦ J94	♦ K62
♣ AQJ843	♣ 6
	South
	♠ 10
	♥ A76
	♦ AQ1085
	♣ K972

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
3♣	3♥	4♠	4NT
5♠	Dbf	All Pass	

I'm not sure how many times an auction like the one in the Open Room has happened before. Walking the dog with ten solid isn't so unusual in certain circles, I suppose. Regardless, West might have competed to 5♠ but didn't. Had he done so would South have bid 6♥?

In any case 5♥ should surely have been defeated. After a spade lead what else can East do but shift to clubs for West to cash out? No, West won the first club as North false-carded, then continued spades. Oops.

And how about 5♠x? An underlead of the ♥A would have collected +300, but after the lead of the ♥A what was South supposed to do? A trump or a club exit collects +100, but Huang cashed the ♦A and continued the suit, confident his partner needed the ♦K for the 3♥ overcall. That was twin 650s and China Women's lead was back up to 33 imps.

Both tables settled in spades in Israel-India. The difference was that India had bid on to 6♠ over 6♥ (3♣-3♥-4♠-5♥; 5♠-6♥-6♠-Dbf) while Israel had bought the pot in 4♠ by responding with that bid to 3♣. Another 11 imps to Israel, now up 84-61.

China added to their lead at once.

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ KQ1065
Vul: Both	♥ KJ73
	♦ 852
	♣ J

West	East
♠ A	♠ J98
♥ Q962	♥ 10854
♦ AK1064	♦ J93
♣ AK2	♣ Q73
	South
	♠ 7432
	♥ A
	♦ Q7
	♣ 1098654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Auction to 4♥ not given			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
	1♠	Pass	4♠
Dbf	All Pass		

There was nothing wrong with 4♥ against a reasonable heart break. But after a spade lead it was hard for declarer not to come to hand in clubs and play a heart. Now the defenders could either play a second spade and set up the force or take the club ruff with two more trump tricks to come. They followed the first route.

After a heart lead against 4♠x all the defenders had to do was keep leading diamonds at every turn and promote the ♠J for the second undertrick. That was 12 more imps to China Women to up the lead to 45.

Israel put exactly the same swing past India when they doubled 4♠ in one room and defeated 4♥ in the other. In both rooms South raised a passed-hand overcall to 3♠, then heard LHO double for takeout and RHO bid 4♥. Satyanarayana saved as South while Zack opted to defend. The lead was 36 now for Israel.

China made it three swings in a row on the very next deal.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ KQ1082
Vul: None	♥ 832
	♦ J5
	♣ J102

West	East
♠ 7654	♠ AJ3
♥ J1095	♥ AKQ76
♦ 107	♦ KQ962
♣ K84	♣ ---

South
♠ 9
♥ 4
♦ A843
♣ AQ97653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♣	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Dbf
Pass	Pass	Rdbf	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Jing</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Huang</i>
		1♣	2♣
Pass	2♠	Dbf	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room I'm not sure what Chen meant by his 4♦ bid but whatever the message was, it didn't get through. Slam by East might have a chance to come home, but not by West. After the lead of ♣J

the mildly unfavorable breaks in hearts and diamonds meant there was no sensible line available (2-2 trumps and 3-3 diamonds might let you come to seven hearts and four diamonds plus the ♠A). Both tables managed to stop in 4♥ in our other match.

PD Times clawed back a little at the end, while China Women proved yet again that if you play the same suit at each table bad things will happen to you.

Bd: 32 North
 Dir: West ♠ 753
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKQJ9
 ♦ QJ87
 ♣ 6

West
 ♠ A106
 ♥ 1053
 ♦ AK9632
 ♣ 10

East
 ♠ QJ92
 ♥ 7642
 ♦ ---
 ♣ KQ753

South
 ♠ K84
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ AJ9842

Open Room
 West North East South
Chen *Lu* *Dong* *Liu*
 1♦ 1♥ Dbl 1NT(1)
 Dbl(3♠) Pass 2♠ Pass
 Pass 3♦ Pass Pass

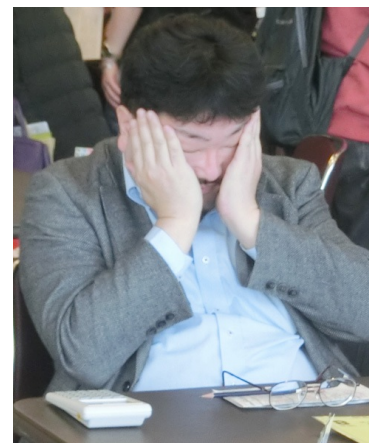
Dbl All Pass
 (1) Intended as clubs?

Closed Room
 West North East South
Shen *Jing* *Wang* *Huang*
 1♦ 1♥ Dbl Pass
 2♦ All Pass

Here China managed only 11 tricks as declarer; 13 imps to PD Times. But yet again China Women had dispatched a strong opponent and run up 100 imps in 32 deals. They would have the chance to do the same thing again on Sunday against Israel, who had also managed to collect 100 imps against India.

Two very dominating performances by our finalists would augur for a very tough match.

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

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; 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.

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**BE THE
DIFFERENCE**

Scottish Charity No SC01159

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

22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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 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 the Yokohama Open Pairs on Sunday 24th
should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline is this evening

Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)

¥3,500

06:40
07:40
08:40
11:40
12:40
14:10

From the YCAT
(100 min)

¥3,500

Every 15-20 minutes from
05:15 to 19:30