

YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 24, 2019
Bulletin Number 6

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Yokohama Cup Champions: ISRAEL

ISRAEL (Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy) qualified in fifth place in the round robin. But true to their history here they stand tonight as Yokohama Cup Champions. On the way they dispatched team Hackett, the two-time defending champions, in the quarter-finals by 54imps. Then they handed team INDIA a 40-imp loss in the semi-finals. And now the third-place qualifiers CHINA WOMEN (Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, npc Zou Kai) are their final victims. The WOMEN breezed through their previous KO matches beating Shanghai Yitong by 60imps in the quarter-finals and PD Times, the top qualifier from the round robin, by 42imps in the semi-finals. Those who follow these bulletins and certainly those who have competed in this event know just what a drain this contest can be, both mentally and physically. Few teams are able to make it to the KOs, let alone the finals, especially playing four-handed. Our congratulations and thanks to the winners, the runners-up, and all the 2019 Yokohama Cup competitors.



2019 Yokohama Cup Champions: ISRAEL



2019 Yokohama Cup Runners-up: China Women



Yokohama Cup Final: Quarter-by-Quarter Results

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
CHINA WOMEN	26	40	13	15	94
ISRAEL	61	32	17	60	170



Team Rosters: 22nd Yokohama Cup (Final)

#	Team Name	Members
	CHINA WOMEN:	Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi, Lu Yan, Liu Yan, Zhao Bing, Chen Yiyi, Zou Kai (npc)
	ISRAEL:	Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy

The Yokohama Swiss Teams results are on page 3

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 Swiss Teams: Final Standings

Rank	Score	Team	Team Members	53 Teams
1	121.23	CHINA OPEN	Chen Yunlong, Zhuang Zejun, Shi Haojun, Ju Chuancheng, Chen Gang, Shi Zhengjun	
2	117.95	China Dalian Aoxin	Huo Shiyu, Chen Jun, Li Xiaoyi, Hu Linlin, Kang Meng, Liu Yinghao	
3	106.67	PD Times	Fu Zhong, Nie Weiping, Dong Lidang, Liu Jing, Chen Ji, Patrick Huang	
4	106.17	Soaring Shou	Tian Wei, Li Zhenhe, Dong Chunhui, Shi Bin, Jin Ke, Zhu Ping	
5	105.67	YBM	YEH Chen, ZHANG Yalan, SHIH Juei-Yu, WANG Ping, Chen Dawei, SUN Ming	
6	105.31	China Hongyu	Zhu Huilin, Hu Yihong, He Xinmei, Chen Yuechen, Li Lianjiang, Li Bin	
7	101.28	Hackett	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, Diego Brenner	
8	100.45	Shanghai Jingfan	Lian Ruoyang, Jiang Lianqing, Gao Fei, Liu Jun, Li Guanghua, Cai Yang	
9	98.74	SARA	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Shugo Tanaka, Takeshi Niekawa, Hiroki Yokoi	
10	95.59	Tanaka	Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Megumi Takasaka, Kazuo Furuta	
11	93.87	INDIA	Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Keyzad Anklesaria, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder	
12	93.23	LU DONG	Lu Dong, Wang Yanhong, Zhang Wei, Xin Guofang, Zhang Yizhuo	
13	91.32	Zhao Jinlong	Zhao Jinlong, Shunsuke Morimura, Tadashi Imakura, Jiang Yi	
14	90.29	TPE-NK	Jonky Chung, Jed Wang, Jimmy Chen, Chris Lin, Herstein Liu, Sophia Kuo	
15	90.09	APBF Mixed	Hiroyuki Noda, Yuko Noda, Tetsuya Ueda, Mariko Ueda	
16	89.91	Shibata	Nagiko Shibata, Yasuyo Iida, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato	
17	88.66	Rhein	Hiroaki Miura, Fumiko Kimura, Takako Fujimoto, Katsumi Takahashi	
18	88.09	LEONG	Eric Leong, Cecilia Rimstedt, Bauke Muller, Simon De Wijs	
19	86.28	Seoul	Hyeyoung Kim, Hyemin Oh, Daehong Kim, Seungjin Roh, Seongseok Kang, Sooik Lee	



Yokohama Swiss teams: 1st



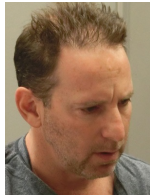
Yokohama Swiss teams: 2nd



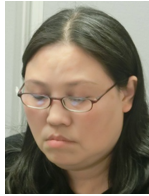
Yokohama Swiss teams: 3rd

Yokohama Cup Final (1st quarter): CHINA WOMEN vs ISRAEL

by Barry Rigal



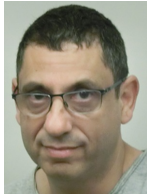
Lengy



Lu



Liu



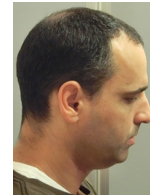
Bareket



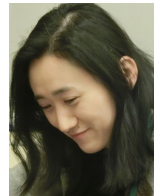
Zhao



Barel



Zack



Chen

The match started with a bang. Both teams showed they had come to play, bidding and making 3NT on a hand where their opponents had the first nine tricks on best defense!

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ J63
 Vul: None ♥ AQ1082
 ♦ AQ102
 ♣ 2

West
 ♠ AQ1084
 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ 65
 ♣ KJ4

East
 ♠ 9
 ♥ 974
 ♦ 93
 ♣ A1098765

South
 ♠ K752
 ♥ 65
 ♦ KJ874
 ♣ Q3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Lu	Bareket	Liu
	1♥	3♣	Pass

3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Barel	Chen	Zack
	1♥	3♣	Dbl

3NT All Pass

It would be hard if not impossible for N/S to cash nine tricks here but you can easily imagine them leading the ♦A, and South overtaking the ♦Q, cashing the jack and then maybe shifting to hearts. Be that as it may, both Wests were happy with their diamond stopper for notrump if the opponents didn't lead the suit and could point to the fact that since 3♣ would be easy to defeat on a heart lead through their tenace, why not try for the big prize?

I assume Liu's light opening style persuaded her not to double 3♣, but color me unconvinced. Now it was certainly hard for Lu to lead a diamond against 3NT and she opted for a heart, another slightly curious choice. In the other room Barel might well be kicking himself for not bidding over 3NT and maybe for his opening lead of a small spade, as opposed to the ♦A (or the ♦Q). Still, give South the ♠KQ and either the ♦J or the ♥J and a spade lead beats 3NT while nothing else will do. Of course, if he had the ♠A but no red jack a spade might work very poorly, but he surely needs a second high card for his double.

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AJ3
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ65
 ♦ AQ9
 ♣ K85

West
 ♠ K10642
 ♥ J1084
 ♦ J
 ♣ A92

East
 ♠ Q98
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 10875
 ♣ Q10743

South
 ♠ 75
 ♥ A732
 ♦ K6432
 ♣ J6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Lu	Bareket	Liu
		Pass	Pass
2♥(♥+♠)	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Barel	Chen	Zack
		Pass	Pass
2♥(♥+♠)	Dbl	2♠	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both Wests showed the majors, both Norths shrugged this off and reached 3NT. After a low spade lead (the nine from Chen, the eight from Bareket) Lu won the first spade and cleared diamonds. I guess E/W couldn't signal to cover this position. West pitched clubs hoping to set up spades, which would suffice if declarer didn't have three heart winners. Bareket continued with the queen and another spade, so Lu had nine tricks.

Barel covered more bases as declarer. He cashed one heart, then played four rounds of diamonds to endplay Chen, who exited with a club to her partner for a low spade back. Barel trusted the play to trick one and withheld his ♠J, thereby blocking the suit. Nicely done all around; no swing.

What seemed like a well-bid match so far exploded into low comedy on the next hand. Do you consider the East hand suitable for a weak-two in spades? Be thankful you don't have the chance.

Bd: 3 North
 Dlr: South ♠ A8
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKJ63
 ♦ Q
 ♣ KJ752

West ♠ --- ♥ Q987 ♦ AK76532 ♣ 109	East ♠ KQ9743 ♥ 1054 ♦ J9 ♣ A3
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South
 ♠ J10652
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 1084
 ♣ Q864

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i> 3♦ Pass Closed Room	North <i>Lu</i> 4♦ Pass Closed Room	East <i>Bareket</i> Pass Dbl Closed Room	South <i>Liu</i> 2♠(♠+m) 4♠ All Pass Closed Room
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Closed Room

West <i>Zhao</i> Pass Pass	North <i>Barel</i> 1♥ 3♣	East <i>Chen</i> 2♠ All Pass	South <i>Zack</i> Pass Pass
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Haters gonna hate, though I suppose we all have to shake that off. Those who need things to hate might focus on South's initial action in the Open Room and West's initial pass in the Closed Room. The latter wasn't expensive, since I guess par might be a club partscore, which was indeed what Israel recorded. West ruffed the top spade lead but all the defenders could get now were their aces in the minors (and,

indeed, the ♦A might have gotten away if West had gone for the jugular).

In the Open Room West's overcall of 3♦ stopped North from asking for South's minor and the double of 4♠ didn't make the position any clearer to North. While West contributed one trick to the defense, East had him covered. The defenders started by leading a top diamond and shifting to two rounds of clubs. Declarer took the heart finesse, cashed two hearts, took the ♠A to find the bad news, then led the fourth heart, having discarded the losing diamonds from his hand. East could ruff low but couldn't stop South from scoring two further spade tricks for -500; 12 imps to Israel, leading by that number.

On the next deal both Norths held:

♠ J732
 ♥ 103
 ♦ QJ865
 ♣ 74

Their unopposed opponents bid the equivalent of: 1♣-1♠; 1NT-3NT. Both led a low diamond and now the doubleton ♦10 became declarer's ninth trick. Partner had five good hearts and the ♠A but the lead of the ♥10 wasn't quite good enough to beat game. You could certainly sell me on the heart lead being right here.

Bd: 5 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K875
 Vul: N/S ♥ 10943
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ 987

West ♠ 10942 ♥ KQ8 ♦ 10863 ♣ K2	East ♠ AQ ♥ 752 ♦ A942 ♣ AQJ5
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South
 ♠ J63
 ♥ AJ6
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ 10643

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i> 1♥ (1) 13-17 Closed Room	North <i>Lu</i> Pass Pass Closed Room	East <i>Bareket</i> 1♣ 1NT(1) Closed Room	South <i>Liu</i> Pass All Pass Closed Room
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Closed Room

West <i>Zhao</i> 2♣ 2NT	North <i>Barel</i> Pass Pass Pass	East <i>Chen</i> 1NT 2♦ 3NT	South <i>Zack</i> Pass Pass All Pass
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Lengy had an easy pass of 1NT; Zhao, non-vulnerable, had a very marginal game try. Some would be less charitable than that, but she could point at the result if she needed justification here. Zack led a low spade against 3NT to the seven and queen. Declarer led a heart up, ducked a diamond, and won the next spade to play a second heart for her ninth trick.

In the other room Liu's club lead and spade shift allowed declarer to take nine tricks without needing the second heart winner. All things considered, a not-unfortunate 6 imps to China, trailing 12-6 now.

Bd: 6
Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 64
♥ K862
♦ J9876
♣ 93

West
♠ AQ3
♥ J9
♦ AQ53
♣ 10875

East
♠ J109875
♥ AQ4
♦ K
♣ QJ2

South
♠ K2
♥ 10753
♦ 1042
♣ AK64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zack</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣(R)	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) catch-all

Both defenses started with three rounds of clubs, ruffed by North for a heart shift. Both Easts took the ace, of course, and advanced the ♠J, stoically ducked by South. At this point even the biggest advocate of Zia's "If they don't cover they don't have it" might decide in the finals of a major event that the finesse was the percentage play. You have to admire the courage of a man who would buck the odds, as Bareket did here, to rise with the ♠A. Liu put the 12 imps in her pocket and swallowed the implied insult with equanimity. In the other room Chen finessed and collected her +620. The overture to the match was finished: China led 18-12.

Bd: 7
Dlr: South
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q532
♥ QJ542
♦ 10
♣ 1097

West
♠ 96
♥ AK96
♦ K94
♣ Q643

East
♠ A8
♥ 1073
♦ Q876
♣ AJ82

South
♠ KJ1074
♥ 8
♦ AJ532
♣ K5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			1♠
	3♠		4♠
	Pass		All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zack</i>
			1♠
	3♠		Pass
	4♥		
	All Pass		

Maybe I'm old fashioned (deafening shrieks of "yes") but when I look at the Closed Room auction I'd expect East to bid hearts if she had them over 3♠, so the double of 3♠ suggests minors. Thus, West should only bid 4♥ with five, and on her actual hand should bid 4♣, which might not be a bed of roses either. But the best thing about 4♥ on a spade lead was that it wasn't doubled (should it have been?). The defense scored one trick in each side suit and three trump tricks for -300.

In the other room 4♠x played as well as could have been hoped for, given the absence of high cards, though Lengy recovered from not leading a trump at trick one to shift to the suit, as indeed was needed. Two rounds of trumps left declarer unable to ruff out the diamond suit but even so, with the ♣A onside, declarer was able to get out for -200. I'm sure the defenders didn't expect declarer to be able to come that close to making. 11 imps to Israel, ahead 23-18.

Bd: 8
Dlr: West
Vul: None

North
♠ 10732
♥ A7
♦ 953
♣ AJ102

West
♠ KJ5
♥ 6
♦ K10864
♣ Q976

East
♠ Q64
♥ J95432
♦ A2
♣ 84

South
♠ A98
♥ KQ108
♦ QJ7
♣ K53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦(♥/♠)	Dbl
2♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

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

Chen's decision to pass in third seat makes sense playing "sound" bridge, but we haven't seen any signs of 1950's valuations in this match so far. Ozzie and Harriet have left the building, I'm told. Anyway, passing let Zack reach what became a delicate 3NT after the defenders led and cleared diamonds. Since the percentage play in clubs, because of the spots, was to finesse into the safe hand (you can pick up queen-fourth in West but not East) Zack duly made the play and was delighted by the result. Had the finesse lost, he would no doubt have fallen back on the heart finesse in due course. But now he didn't need that and could cash out for nine tricks.

That was worth 3 imps when 2♥x probably played a lot better than Lengy was expecting when he became declarer facing a third-in-hand non-vulnerable preempt. The defenders took four hearts and three plain winners but that was it; -300, and a relieved Israeli declarer was on to the next deal.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K10932		
Vul: E/W	♥ K8		
	♦ KQJ		
	♣ Q84		
West		East	
♠ AJ87		♠ Q65	
♥ Q62		♥ J10943	
♦ 843		♦ 97	
♣ A53		♣ K92	
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ A75		
	♦ A10652		
	♣ J1076		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠(1)
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

(1) initially range ask

Closed Room

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

In the abstract, reaching 3NT without showing the spades looks best, but of course you need to put the hand with short hearts on lead, not the one with long hearts. After a top heart lead from Bareket, Lu could do little. She ducked the first heart, won the second, then drove out the top clubs by leading toward dummy's jack, but she had six top losers whatever she did.

Earlier we mentioned Zia's BOLS tip (if they don't cover they don't have it). Time to give credit to Tony Forrester's equally incisive tip from the following year (if my memory serves me correctly). His tip was on exploiting the power of the Closed Hand. Zhao, as West, did find the heart lead; well done! Zack ducked, won the next, then thoughtfully advanced the ♣Q. If you can find it in your heart to cast the first stone at the woman caught covering an honor with an honor, then you are a more censorious man than I. Chen put up her ♣K and cleared the hearts, but had removed her own entry. It was certainly hard, but not impossible, to shift to a spade after the ♣K won, I suppose. But now when Zack took his ♥A he was able to set up clubs into the safe hand. Zhao won her ♣A but could do no better than shift to a low spade, and when Zack put up the ♠K and it held, it was surely no more than he deserved. An elegant +430 meant Israel led 36-18.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AQ1096		
Vul: Both	♥ J82		
	♦ J6		
	♣ K64		
	West	East	
	♠ K832	♠ 7	
	♥ Q73	♥ AK106	
	♦ K1075	♦ AQ98	
	♣ 95	♣ J1032	
	South		
	♠ J54		
	♥ 954		
	♦ 432		
	♣ AQ87		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	All Pass	2♣	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zack</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	1NT	Pass
(1) Puppet to 2♦		2♦	All Pass

In the Open Room North could not come into a live auction with any great degree of confidence, particularly since the opponents hadn't clearly found a fit yet. In the Closed Room Barel might have balanced with 2♠ after the opponents had each limited themselves. It is easier to do with the sight of all four hands but certainly not impossible. 2♦ played for a painless +110, and while Chen might well have bid on to 3♦ (or 3♣) over 2♠, the latter contract would also have come home with +110 without any problems. No swing, and we move on, with more questions than answers. Yes, it could certainly be argued that the more we find out, the less we know.

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ J53
 Vul: None ♥ ---
 ♦ 532
 ♣ AKQJ943

West	East
♠ 98	♠ K62
♥ 109852	♥ KQJ7
♦ KQ98	♦ J104
♣ 102	♣ 876

South
 ♠ AQ1074
 ♥ A643
 ♦ A76
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The top diamond lead looks entirely obvious on both auctions, but Lengy preferred a trump. Declarer put up the jack, ran trumps and clubs, and had her +510 and doubtless considered it a missed slam. Zack, on a diamond lead, had no certainty he could even make game. (A club lead might have been just as awkward, incidentally.) He ducked the diamond, won the second, then played very carefully. Heart ruff, two clubs pitching his diamond, diamond ruff, heart ruff, club ruff with the ♠A, ♥A, then a heart ruff with the ♠J. He still had the ♠Q10 left for his tenth trick, but China Women had 3 imps.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 73
 Vul: N/S ♥ K762
 ♦ 65
 ♣ AJ1094

West	East
♠ K105	♠ J9
♥ 98	♥ AJ104
♦ K983	♦ AJ742
♣ K762	♣ 83

South
 ♠ AQ8642
 ♥ Q53
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ Q5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♠
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

1NT by Zhao handled very smoothly on an intermediate club lead. Zhao won her ♣K, led a diamond to the king, cashed out seven tricks, and came to an eighth winner in the ending. There was nothing wrong with the contract of 3♦ but Liu put her fingers on the ♣Q. The defenders played three rounds of clubs and now there was an inevitable loser in each of the other suits for down one. China Women had 5 imps and trailed now 36-26.

Bd: 13 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 72
 Vul: Both ♥ QJ62
 ♦ K42
 ♣ QJ102

West	East
♠ 943	♠ AK
♥ AK953	♥ 874
♦ 3	♦ AQJ98
♣ K853	♣ A97

South
 ♠ QJ10865
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 10765
 ♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	1♦	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣(1)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Puppet to 3♦

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ 63
Vul: N/S	♥ J854
	♦ A542
	♣ 1042
West	East
♠ QJ7	♠ 2
♥ Q97	♥ AK3
♦ KQ10	♦ J9876
♣ J765	♣ AQ83
	South
	♠ AK109854
	♥ 1062
	♦ 3
	♣ K9

For China the operation was successful but the patient died. In 3NT Liu found a club lead. Declarer won in hand, led a heart to dummy, a diamond to the queen, then ducked a heart. Bareket won the spade shift to duck a second heart and now had nine top tricks, albeit after a struggle.

4♥ looks easy enough to make but Zhao had no clues from the auction of the spade break. She won the club lead in dummy and played the ♦AQ pitching a club. Then she won the club return, cashed the ♥A and the fall of the ♥10 persuaded her to unblock dummy's spades, cross to the ♥K and lead a third spade. Had she been able to ruff in dummy she would have taken her pitch, but North ruffed in and cashed her club winner before declarer could discard it on the ♦J.

After one round of trumps dropped South's ♥10, declarer might have crossed to a spade and pitched her club on the ♦J. That might let the defenders ruff in, but they would now have only two trumps left between them and could not score them both in any scenario barring a 7-1 spade break.

Israel put the 12 imps in their pocket and moved on. They collected 2 undertrick-imps from a more successful blind opening lead against 1NT (low from K109x worked better than an honor from either AK9 or QJ8 — go figure). If that was a somewhat random swing, the next deal saw the imps go to the player who made the better choice of defenses.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zack</i>
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Lu led the ♠6 and South took her top spades assuming she would get in with a club and wanting to avoid an endplay. Then she played a third spade. Declarer won and drove out the ♦A, coming to one trick in each black suit plus three hearts and four diamonds.

Zack realized that his partner had to have two spades to have any chance to beat the game, together with a diamond entry. He put in the ♠10 at trick one and when West won and cleared the diamonds, Barel reverted to spades, which let Zack cash out for down three for a pick-up of another 11 imps, making it 61-26, Israel, at set end.



"It's ALIVE!"



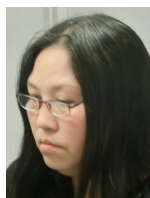
"Let's see, that was 3 hearts...no, two clubs..."

Yokohama Cup Final (2nd quarter): CHINA WOMEN vs ISRAEL

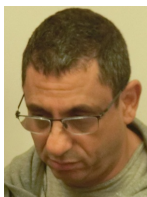
by Rich Colker



Lengy



Lu



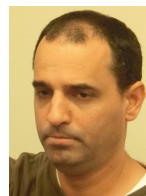
Bareket



Shen



Barel



Zack



Wang



Liu

The first quarter saw ISRAEL come out of the gate fast, opening up a substantial lead. They entered the second quarter up by 35, 61-26. The WOMEN had been resilient up til now; this would be a true test of their mettle.

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ Q54
♥ AQ9
♦ QJ864
♣ J6

West
♠ J1086
♥ 10
♦ K72
♣ Q8542

East
♠ K732
♥ 854
♦ 9
♣ AK973

South
♠ A9
♥ KJ7632
♦ A1053
♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Lu	Bareket	Liu
	1♦*	Dbl	Rdbl(♥)
1♠	Dbl	2♠	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
	1♦	Dbl	1♥
2♣	Dbl(1)	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Three hearts

In the Closed Room Shen led the ♠J against 4♥, ducked to the ace. Zack drew three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and passed the ♦Q to the king. Shen switched to a low club to the king but when Wang tried to cash a second club Zack ruffed and ditched his spade loser on a diamond; +450.

In the Open Room the defense was similar but different in critical ways. First Liu covered the ♠J, Q, K, A, drew trumps as above, then passed the ♦Q to Lengy who ducked. Now, when Liu led a second diamond to the ten and king Bareket had a chance to signal his spade count. That meant Lengy knew to cash the ♠10 before switching to a club, holding declarer to 10 tricks (+420) for a 1-imp gain, 62-26.

On Board 18 both E/W pairs played 4♥ making, losing just two trumps and a club. Still 62-26.

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ J954
♥ ---
♦ J984
♣ AQ1083

West
♠ K1076
♥ Q83
♦ K5
♣ KJ74

East
♠ AQ
♥ AK76542
♦ A106
♣ 5

South
♠ 832
♥ J109
♦ Q732
♣ 962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Lu	Bareket	Liu
			Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass
1♥(1)	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦(2)	Pass	6♥	All Pass

(1) Three hearts

(2) 0-3 Key Cards

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
			Pass
Pass	1♣	4♥	All Pass

Shen's second-seat pass in the Open Room would not be everyone's cup of tea, especially in today's game where even balanced 10-counts are commonly opened, and Wang's 4♥ bid opposite her passed partner is one of the many ways conservatism can come back to bite you in the ass. Needless to say the sight of dummy could not have been a welcome one for Wang as she quickly claimed 12 tricks after losing the first club trick; +680.

The auction in the Closed Room was certainly serviceable, even if a bit obscure. A "nebulous" club opening, a heart-showing response, a three-card raise, a Key-Card ask, "None pard," "Thank you very much." Lengy won Lu's opening ♦9 lead with the ace, played trumps until he saw each defender pitch at least one spade, then cashed the ♠AQ and claimed when dummy's ten provided a second pitch for both his diamond and club losers; +1460; 13 more imps to ISRAEL, ahead now 75-26.

On Board 20 both E/W pairs played 3NT and made overtricks, Shen in the Open Room just the obvious one; Lengy in the Closed Room a second after an early heart discard from Liu allowed Lu to be stripped of her black-suit cards and a third heart trick established for declarer; 1 imp to ISRAEL, 76-26.

Board 21 was a push when both Souths declared 4♥ holding a 4=5=4=0 Yarborough and made 10 tricks facing a slightly better hand than theirs. Still 76-26.

To paraphrase tennis player Vitas Gerulaitis' famous line, nobody holds the CHINESE WOMEN scoreless for 10 boards in a row.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 109
 Vul: E/W ♥ K10
 ♦ 109876
 ♣ 10843

West ♠ KQJ53 ♥ 876 ♦ AJ5 ♣ J2	East ♠ A764 ♥ J95 ♦ Q432 ♣ A9
---	---

South
 ♠ 82
 ♥ AQ432
 ♦ K
 ♣ KQ765

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Lu</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Invitational spade raise

Closed Room

West <i>Shen</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Wang</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

There is not much to say about Lengy's 3NT bid in the Closed Room, with his 5-3-3-2 minimum opposite a partner that promised to provide nothing more than a balanced 10- or 11-count...except, why? Neither 3NT nor 4♠ has anything going for it and, in fact, it is only the short ♦K onside that gives 3NT even a prayer (4♠ has no play, regardless) — even assuming the defense doesn't find a heart lead and take the first five tricks. Down one, -100. Of course some people do play 2NT as natural if 3rd hand doesn't join in. I'm sure Lengy wasn't one of them...

The WOMEN in the Open Room showed aggression from one side and caution from the other. Wang's 3♠ looks like an overbid, while facing any normal person West would have an easy 4♠ bid. But Shen knew that if her partner really had an invitation she would already have bid game, so she parked the bus in 3♠, for +140, and came away with 6 imps for her restraint (no "conservatism" here), trailing now 76-32.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ AK5
 Vul: Both ♥ Q106
 ♦ K86
 ♣ 10864

West ♠ 86432 ♥ J43 ♦ QJ4 ♣ J3	East ♠ QJ109 ♥ 82 ♦ A10532 ♣ 75
---	---

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AK975
 ♦ 97
 ♣ AKQ92

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i>	North <i>Lu</i>	East <i>Bareket</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Dbl	Pass*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Shen</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Wang</i>	South <i>Zack</i>
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Barel's 3NT in the Closed Room looks like a balanced game raise with three trumps. Zack's 4NT does *not* look like an invitation in notrump (Key Card, anyone?). Clearly the Israelis were on different wavelengths here and only the fact that Barel was the notrump declarer and thus his $\diamond K$ was protected saved the pair from disaster. Wang led the $\spadesuit Q$ and Barel quickly claimed 12 tricks for a sweaty +690.

The Open Room auction reads like a Russian novel; here's our CliffsNotes version: $1\clubsuit$ = Precision (16+), $1\spadesuit$ = balanced positive denying long spades, $2\heartsuit$ = natural, $3\diamond$ = some combination of controls and trump support (four+ controls, three-card support), $3\spadesuit$ = spade control, 3NT = non-serious slam co-operation, $4\clubsuit$ = club control, $4\diamond$ = diamond control, Pass = no first- or second-round diamond control, $4\heartsuit$ = the $\diamond K$ not the $\diamond A$. Lengy led the $\diamond Q$. Liu lost the first two diamond tricks and scored up +650 for a 1-imp loss, down 77-32.

On Board 24 both Norths overcalled $1\diamond$ with 1NT, both Easts used an artificial $2\clubsuit$ bid to show the majors, both Wests duly bid their longer major (hearts) and both went down two tricks for a push. Still 77-32.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North \spadesuit 10973
 Vul: E/W \heartsuit Q97
 \diamond KQ75
 \clubsuit 63

West \spadesuit Q85 \heartsuit AJ102 \diamond 86 \clubsuit 9872	East \spadesuit AJ62 \heartsuit K4 \diamond 43 \clubsuit AKQ104
---	---

South
 \spadesuit K4
 \heartsuit 8653
 \diamond AJ1092
 \clubsuit J5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	$1\clubsuit^*$	$1\diamond$
Dbl(\heartsuit)	$3\diamond^*$	$3\spadesuit$	Pass
$4\spadesuit$	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	Pass	$1\clubsuit^*$	$2\diamond^*$
Dbl	$3\diamond$	Dbl	Pass
$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$3\spadesuit$	Pass
$4\spadesuit$	All Pass		

On a deal where no clear game presents itself, $4\spadesuit$ is the best shot (for those unwilling to settle for a partscore). The only defense to $4\spadesuit$ is diamonds, diamonds, and more diamonds. In the Open Room Liu led the $\heartsuit 5, 10, Q, K$, and any hope for the defense had vanished. Bareket led a low spade up. Liu rose king and switched to ace and a diamond. The defense continued with a second and a third round of the suit but declarer could ruff in dummy, cash the $\spadesuit Q$, cross to hand with a club, draw the remaining trumps, and claim 10 tricks; +620.

In the Closed Room Zack also led a heart, but Wang chose to play along different lines. She cashed the $\spadesuit A$, cashed three hearts pitching a diamond, crossed to hand with a club, and led a low spade up to the queen. Zack won and played the $\heartsuit 8$, forcing declarer to ruff in hand. With her trumps now shortened, Wang had no good option but to lead clubs. Barel ruffed the third and played king and a second diamond, allowing declarer to ruff in hand and score her two high trumps separately, but also allowing Barel to score his $\spadesuit 10$; down one, -100. That was 12 imps to ISRAEL, ahead now by 57 at 89-32.

On Board 26 both tables played $4\spadesuit$ for +650 and no swing. Still 89-32.

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South \spadesuit A9643
 Vul: None \heartsuit J85
 \diamond 8
 \clubsuit KQ65

West \spadesuit 72 \heartsuit 3 \diamond KQ10965 \clubsuit J942	East \spadesuit J108 \heartsuit K10976 \diamond 42 \clubsuit A87
---	--

South
 \spadesuit KQ5
 \heartsuit AQ42
 \diamond AJ73
 \clubsuit 103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	$2\diamond$	$2\spadesuit$	Pass
	Pass	$4\diamond$	Pass
	All Pass		$3\spadesuit$
			$4\spadesuit$

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	$3\diamond$	$3\spadesuit$	Pass
	All Pass		$4\spadesuit$

Both N/S pairs reached the good 4♠ contract, both received a diamond lead and put up the ace, but from there the two lines of play diverged radically. In the Open Room Lu immediately led a club to the king and ace and Bareket tapped declarer with a second diamond. Lu cashed dummy's two top spades, played a club to the queen and ruffed a club, then a heart to the jack and king. Bareket got out with a heart but Lu was able to ruff the fourth round, draw the last trump, and score up +420.

In the Closed Room Barel chose what turned out to be a less successful line of attack. He drew three rounds of trumps, then played East for the ♣J by leading a low club from hand toward the ten. But when Shen showed up with the jack he still had two clubs and a heart to lose. Down one, -100, 11 imps back to WOMEN, trailing now by 46 at 89-43.

Board 28 was pushed when Israel played 1NT for +120 and WOMEN played 3♣ for +130. Still 89-43.

Bd: 29 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 10987
 Vul: Both ♥ K
 ♦ 9863
 ♣ AQ102

West
 ♠ AJ4
 ♥ 842
 ♦ A4
 ♣ J8543

East
 ♠ KQ53
 ♥ AJ7
 ♦ K102
 ♣ K76

South
 ♠ 62
 ♥ Q109653
 ♦ QJ75
 ♣ 9

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs reached 3NT from the East side. In the Open Room Liu led the ♥10 to the king, ducked by Bareket, and Lu exited with a spade to the jack. A club to the king came next followed by a second club, getting the bad news, to the ten. Now the ♦9 went to the ace and declarer cashed the remaining spades, pitching a diamond from dummy. He then led the ♦K as Liu unblocked the jack (key play) and a third diamond to Liu's queen. But Liu could lead the ♦7 to Lu's ♦8, allowing her to cash her two good clubs for down two, -200. Terrific defense by Liu.

In the Closed Room the first four tricks were virtually the same. Wang won Barel's diamond with the king

at trick five to lead a second club to Barel's queen. Barel persisted with a second diamond and Wang now cashed the spades, then exited with the ♦10 to Zack's ♦QJ. Now after Zack cashed his diamonds he had only hearts left, and had to concede the last two tricks to Wang's ♥AJ for +600. That was 13 more imps to WOMEN, who had cut ISRAEL's lead to 23 at 89-56.

Bd: 30 North
 Dlr: East ♠ KJ9754
 Vul: None ♥ K102
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ A7

West
 ♠ 63
 ♥ 874
 ♦ J98
 ♣ Q10963

East
 ♠ Q2
 ♥ AJ5
 ♦ A6543
 ♣ K84

South
 ♠ A108
 ♥ Q963
 ♦ K102
 ♣ J52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♦	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
		1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Dbl	Rdbl*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

2♠ was never going to be in serious danger here but certainly there were possible overtricks at stake. In the Open Room Bareket led a low club to the ten and ace and Lu cashed the two top spades ending in dummy and got out with a club. In with the ♣10, Lengy chose to exit with a diamond and now Lu had a parking place for her third heart; +170.

In the Closed Room Wang had to lead away from *something* and decided to try the ♦3, 10, J, Q. Barel, whose first rodeo this was not, immediately fired back a second diamond. Wang decided discretion was the better part of valor and stepped up with the ace and tried the ♥J, eliminating another guess for Barel, who now cashed the top two spades and claimed 11 tricks for +200. 1 more imp for ISRAEL, leading now 90-56.

Bd: 31 North
 Dir: South ♠ 107643
 Vul: N/S ♥ 10862
 ♦ A6
 ♣ Q7

West
 ♠ AK
 ♥ 5
 ♦ QJ9742
 ♣ 10864

East
 ♠ Q2
 ♥ A9743
 ♦ K3
 ♣ K953

South
 ♠ J985
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ AJ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			1♦*
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
			1♣
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

This time both tables played 3NT, Lengy from the West side in the Open Room, Wang from the East side in the Closed Room. With only eight obvious tricks in sight, even without a heart lead declarer was going to need a favorable lie of the cards (e.g., ♣QJ doubleton) to have a chance. In the Open Room Lu led a spade and Lengy won to play a diamond. Lu flew ace, continued spades, and Lengy was forced to cash out for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Zack led a heart. Wang guessed (wrongly) to duck twice before winning and leading the ♦K, also ducked, and a diamond to the ace. Barel now cashed the fourth heart, then switched to the ♣Q. Again Wang guessed wrong and ducked, and when the smoke cleared the defense had three hearts, three clubs and a diamond for down three, -150. 3 moreimps to ISRAEL, leading 93-56.

Last chance to beat the other couples.

Bd: 32 North
 Dir: West ♠ A7
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK1082
 ♦ 105432
 ♣ 2

West
 ♠ QJ863
 ♥ J54
 ♦ 96
 ♣ Q93

East
 ♠ 942
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ AQJ8
 ♣ A1076

South
 ♠ K105
 ♥ 973
 ♦ K7
 ♣ KJ854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In the Open Room Bareket led the ♠4. Lu won the ace and led a diamond up. Bareket flew ace and continued with the ♠2. Lu won in dummy, cashed the ♦A, came to hand with the ♥A, and ruffed a diamond. Lengy overruffed and tried to cash a spade (after all, Bareket had high-lowed). now Lu ruffed, ruffed a diamond to dummy, exited with the ♣K to Bareket (avoiding a spade through for a trump promotion), ruffed the club return, drew trumps and claimed +420.

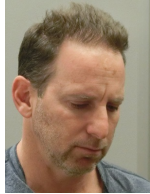
In the Closed Room Wang led the ♠2 and the play proceeded much the same as in the Open Room, only this time when Shen overruffed dummy on the third round of diamonds she returned a trump and declarer had to lose another diamond for down one, -50. 10imps back to WOMEN, making the score 93-66 at the half.

CHINA WOMEN had won the second set 40-32, cutting their first-quarter deficit from 35 to just 27, a manageable task in the 32 boards left to play.

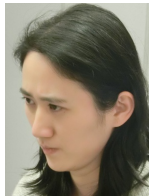


Yokohama Cup Final (3rd quarter): CHINA WOMEN vs ISRAEL

by Barry Rigal



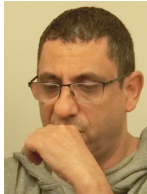
Lengy



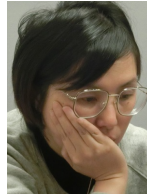
Chen



Zhao



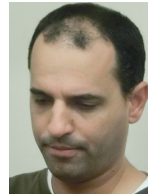
Bareket



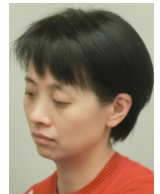
Shen



Barel



Zack



Wang

China had come back from a large deficit halfway through the second set to trail by 27imps at the half. Both sides had the opportunity to push to a thin game on the first deal.

Bd: 33
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q92
 ♥ A76543
 ♦ ---
 ♣ K872

West
 ♠ K104
 ♥ J109
 ♦ Q9652
 ♣ 43

East
 ♠ J83
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ K874
 ♣ Q96

South
 ♠ A765
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AJ103
 ♣ AJ105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Chen	Bareket	Zhao
	2♦(♥/♠)	Pass	2♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

I'm not a big fan of preempting on weak suits headed by an ace. But when you could go down in 2♥ while making slam in two other denominations, that is truly not to my liking. As if to prove that point, 2♥ got lucky to make +170 with the trump break and both black honors onside but that same lie of the cards meant that Zack could and did make slam in clubs. He

received a diamond lead, ruffed out the ♦Q, then cross-ruffed to score four plain winners and eight trump tricks. Should Barel have done more than bid 2♣? Yes, in my book, but Zack might have passed an invitational 3♣ bid with only four clubs and a singleton in his partner's suit.

Bd: 34
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AJ92
 ♥ 54
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ QJ954

West
 ♠ KQ854
 ♥ AK1072
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 108

East
 ♠ 107
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ KJ9543
 ♣ K76

South
 ♠ 63
 ♥ J963
 ♦ A1072
 ♣ A32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Chen	Bareket	Zhao
		3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Bareket could and did choose to exploit the vulnerability to preempt here, but that dummy wasn't the one of his dreams. Against 3♦ the defenders led spades and shifted to clubs to take the first three tricks. Zhao carefully exited in spades and declarer now cashed off the hearts, overruffing North, and

ended up losing three trump tricks to South at the end for down two.

2♠ looks to be a far more sensible spot, but it didn't work out that way. The defenders led the ♣Q, then the ♣J, pinning declarer's ten. Maybe it was right to duck this, but North would surely have shifted to a diamond for a trump through. As it was, declarer covered the ♣J and ducked when a small trump came through so North scored the ♠J cheaply. Now Shen pitched her diamond on the fourth club and ruffed the next club in dummy with the ♠10, pitching a heart. She played two rounds of hearts to come to hand to play the ♠K. Barel won and led a fifth club, declarer eventually taking two hearts, a ruff in dummy and three trumps in hand for six tricks and a flat board, since North could ruff away the third heart winner. No swing; still Israel by 27.

Bd: 35 North
 Dir: South ♠ J976
 Vul: E/W ♥ A
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ AKQ94

West
 ♠ A52
 ♥ QJ93
 ♦ AKQJ2
 ♣ 10

East
 ♠ Q1083
 ♥ 842
 ♦ 95
 ♣ J863

South
 ♠ K4
 ♥ K10765
 ♦ 743
 ♣ 752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
1♦	2♣	Pass	3♣
Dbl	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
1♣	1♠(1)	Pass	2♣
Dbl	3♣	All Pass	

(1) Blacks or reds

The strong club helped keep Israel low in the Closed Room. Shen cashed her three diamonds and shifted to a club. Zack won and advanced the ♠6, 3, 4, A! A nice view, and one that allowed him to escape for down one. In the other room Lengy was fooled into believing that declarer had better spades than she did. After a diamond lead West cashed the diamonds and played the ♠A before leading a fourth diamond. That allowed Chen to lose just one more trump trick.

The undertrick made the lead 29 for Israel.

Bd: 36 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q765
 Vul: Both ♥ 5
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ KQ875

West
 ♠ AK1042
 ♥ AKQ9
 ♦ 1053
 ♣ 6

East
 ♠ J93
 ♥ 763
 ♦ KQ76
 ♣ 432

South
 ♠ 8
 ♥ J10842
 ♦ 842
 ♣ AJ109

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
1♣	1♠(1)	Pass	3♣

All Pass

(1) Blacks or reds

Lengy's 3♦ help-try excited Bareket to bid game. Lengy ruffed the second club, led a diamond to dummy and took the spade finesse. Chen won and tapped declarer again with a club. Lengy trusted the defensive carding in diamonds to lead a second diamond up. Chen won his ace, played a second trump, and had to come to another trump trick. That was a nice result for China Women, but Israel's defensive methods blew their opponents out of the water by stealing the spade suit. Shen cashed a top heart and shifted to clubs. Zack won in hand, led a spade up and had nine tricks via three ruffs in his hand. No swing, still Israel by 29 imps.

Bd: 37 North
 Dir: North ♠ K875
 Vul: N/S ♥ K432
 ♦ K102
 ♣ 65

West
 ♠ 1043
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q843
 ♣ QJ1092

East
 ♠ QJ9
 ♥ J976
 ♦ A6
 ♣ AK73

South
 ♠ A62
 ♥ AQ105
 ♦ J975
 ♣ 84

Open Room
 West North East South
Lengy Chen Bareket Zhao
 Pass 1♣ Pass
 1♠(1) Pass 1NT All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Shen Barel Wang Zack
 1NT All Pass

Zack led a diamond against 1NT and declarer went for her only chance by rising with the queen. When the ♦K appeared, declarer could take just six tricks. In the other room Zhao led a heart and the defenders took their four tricks in that suit. Dummy pitched a diamond and two spades and North followed on the third and fourth hearts with the ♥4 and ♥3, which persuaded Zhao to shift to a spade. The defenders could take two spades but declarer had the rest, and Israel had 4 imps to lead by 33.

Bd: 38 North
 Dir: East ♠ J652
 Vul: E/W ♥ 962
 ♦ K104
 ♣ KJ6

West ♠ Q83 ♥ K4 ♦ AQ732 ♣ A97	South ♠ K1074 ♥ A873 ♦ J8 ♣ 542	East ♠ A9 ♥ QJ105 ♦ 965 ♣ Q1083
---	---	---

Open and Closed Rooms

West <i>Lengy Shen</i> 1NT 2♦	North <i>Chen Barel</i> Pass Pass	East <i>Bareket Wang</i> Pass 2♣ 3NT	South <i>Zhao Zack</i> Pass Pass All Pass
--	--	--	---

Both Norths led a spade against 3NT. Lengy won the second in dummy and played two rounds of hearts, South ducking. Now Lengy decided that since South had at least seven HCP in the majors and had given him an unnecessary entry to dummy, the diamond finesse rated to lose. So he bravely led a diamond to the ace and ducked a diamond. The defenders set up spades and cashed out for down one.

In the other room Shen won the second spade and immediately finessed in diamonds, making the cash-out far easier. No swing, still 6-0 to Israel on the set and a 33 imp lead overall.

Bd: 39 North
 Dir: South ♠ A105
 Vul: Both ♥ 752
 ♦ AK32
 ♣ 987

West ♠ 64 ♥ 108 ♦ QJ64 ♣ AKQ103	East ♠ J9873 ♥ 4 ♦ 1085 ♣ J642
---	--

South
 ♠ KQ2
 ♥ AKQJ963
 ♦ 97
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West <i>Lengy</i> 2♣ All Pass	North <i>Chen</i> Dbl	East <i>Bareket</i> 4♣	South <i>Zhao</i> 1♥ 4♥
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Closed Room

West <i>Shen</i> 2♣ All Pass	North <i>Barel</i> Dbl	East <i>Wang</i> 5♣	South <i>Zack</i> 1♥ 5♥
---	------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------

Neither side got that close here, did they? Perhaps you just have to accept that occasionally the opposition intervention makes life too hard. Of note is Chen's negative double with only three spades, and the difference in preemption of the two Easts.

Both tables then did well with a two-way new-minor auction to stay out of slam with 1054 facing AQ763. The finesse worked but the suit broke 4-1 so 11 tricks were the limit against all but the tallest of declarers (who would advance the ♠10 from dummy and pin the singleton nine to his left).

Bd: 41 North
 Dir: North ♠ KJ65
 Vul: E/W ♥ AJ872
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ Q9

West ♠ 9 ♥ KQ10 ♦ Q984 ♣ J10432	East ♠ AQ104 ♥ 6543 ♦ K103 ♣ 65
---	---

South
 ♠ 8732
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 7652
 ♣ AK87

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lengy	Chen	Bareket	Zhao
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Zack looked with disfavor on his four small trumps and singleton in partner's suit. Zhao looked favorably on her ace-king. Is your glass half full or half empty?

Zhao won the diamond lead and followed the natural line of pitching the diamond on the third club. Had that lived, declarer would have been in great shape. But when Bareket ruffed and exited in diamonds declarer cross-ruffed the red suits. Then, when Bareket over-ruffed the fourth diamond, he gave his partner a ruff with the fourth heart for down two.

Zack received an unlucky low club lead, stuck in the nine, which held, then ruffed a heart to hand to play a spade to the nine and jack. Wang returned a club and Zack won the ace and king, pitching a diamond, letting East ruff in for the defenders' second trick. East exited with a diamond but could not prevent declarer cross-ruffing and losing just two trumps at the end for +140. Nicely done by declarer. After trick one it looks impossible to defeat 3♥, thanks to the fall of the heart honors. Those 6 imps to Israel made it 12-0 on the set and a 39-imp lead overall, 105-66.

Next came three flat deals. The first was a partscore deal where both Wests took a sensible, if cautious, approach to stay low in 2NT rather than drive to a thin and unmakeable game. Then both E/W pairs bid to 3NT with nine top tricks and made ten. Finally, the same pairs reached 3NT and collected +460. The only excitement here came from the fact that Lengy was systemically obligated to open ♠AQ72 ♥7652 ♦KJ96 ♣2. That certainly constitutes living by the sword; updates on dying thereby in the News at Ten.

Bd: 45	North		
Dlr: North	♠ ---		
Vul: Both	♥ AQ83		
	♦ 98654		
	♣ 8643		
West		East	
♠ K109754		♠ AQ62	
♥ K5		♥ J96	
♦ 7		♦ AQJ3	
♣ QJ109		♣ A2	
	South		
	♠ J83		
	♥ 10742		
	♦ K102		
	♣ K75		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lengy	Chen	Bareket	Zhao
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
	Pass	1♣(16+)	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♦(SPL)	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Score one for the strong club here. Shen had the space to set up a game force, show her short diamonds, then respect her partner's sign off. Lengy knew he was facing a very good hand but had to guess what to do next. He bought a very poor dummy for his aggressive route, the soft red-suit cards being essentially waste paper. Even had trumps broken and the club finesse succeeded he would not have had 12 sure tricks. After testing trumps, an early club finesse saw the defenders cash out for two down. Those 13 imps made it 105-79 for Israel.

Bd: 46	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 106		
Vul: None	♥ AKJ5		
	♦ J103		
	♣ 9732		
West		East	
♠ J973		♠ Q8542	
♥ 103		♥ 84	
♦ AK975		♦ 86	
♣ A6		♣ KQ104	
	South		
	♠ AK		
	♥ Q9762		
	♦ Q42		
	♣ J85		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lengy	Chen	Bareket	Zhao
		Pass	1♥
2♦	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
		2♠(+m)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The Chinese Women were taking no prisoners here. 4♠ was a perfectly sensible spot and if South led a minor it was going to come home. Alas for declarer, Zack put his fingers unerringly on a low heart and the

contract was still-born.

Does the leap to 4♥ in the other room seem as over the top to you as it does to me? I'd have thought a bid of 2♥, planning to compete to 3♥, was perfect. The six minor suit losers were duly lost and Israel had 5 imps to end the scoring for the set. But there was a point of interest in one of the deals that did not produce a swing.

Bd: 47 North
 Dir: South ♠ KQ87
 Vul: N/S ♥ K7
 ♦ AKQJ7
 ♣ 87

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 9643
 ♦ 643
 ♣ AK542

East
 ♠ J962
 ♥ A1085
 ♦ 92
 ♣ J103

South
 ♠ A1043
 ♥ QJ2
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ Q96

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Chen	Bareket	Zhao
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Wests cashed two clubs and shifted to a high heart. Both Easts won their ♥A and exited. Both declarers cashed the ♠K, both Easts dropped the ♠9, hoping partner would not produce the ♠10. Both declarers paid their opponents the compliment that they were up to this falsecard and continued with the ♠Q. An honorable push.



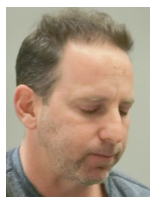
"I I have an Excedrin headache."

Images of Our Game



Yokohama Cup Final (4th quarter): CHINA WOMEN vs ISRAEL

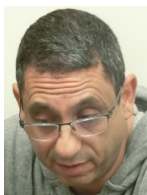
by Barry Rigal



Lengy



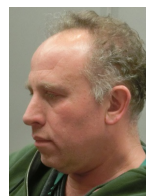
Lu



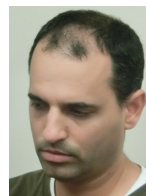
Bareket



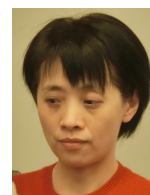
Shen



Barel



Zack



Wang



Liu

Israel entered the fourth quarter leading by 31 imps. 16 deals, 2 imps a deal, that sort of mathematics we can handle. The set started with a quiet game, where trumps broke badly to put the contract in jeopardy but diamonds were 3-2 to make up for it. No excitement there. Then came a slam:

West	East
♠ AJ642	♠ 5
♥ Q4	♥ A32
♦ A65	♦ KQ3
♣ 986	♣ AKQ1073

Both E/W pairs handled this hand well. For China Women after a strong club and positive response Wang showed clubs at her second turn and Shen raised. For Israel a reverse, then a rebid of clubs by Bareket saw Lengy raise. Each East now used Key Card and bid slam. After leading a heart to the queen and king, declarer could draw two rounds of trumps and the heart ruff was the 12th trick.

Time for some imps to change hands?

Bd: 51
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
♠ 653
♥ Q1052
♦ J9753
♣ 8

West	East
♠ Q10872	♠ KJ94
♥ 3	♥ AK987
♦ Q	♦ A
♣ AJ10732	♣ 965
South	
♠ A	
♥ J64	
♦ K108642	
♣ KQ4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Lu	Bareket	Liu
1♠	Pass	2♦	1♦(1+)
3♣	4♦	4♥	Dbl
Dbl	All Pass		5♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Barel	Wang	Zack
1♠	3♦	4♦	1♦
5♠	Pass	6♠	5♦
			All Pass

Shen's 5♠ bid caused the problems here, to my mind. A forcing pass would have perhaps left Wang to do the wrong thing, but at least West would then have had someone else to blame. In the other room Lengy got to show his suits and then did very well to heed the danger signs from the 4♥ bid and double 5♦. Lengy led his singleton heart. Bareket decided to cash the ♠K to see what to do next. Oops! That meant only 300 but the lost doubled undertrick cost just 1 imp with +200 coming from the other table after an initial club lead for the ruff had set up the second undertrick; 11 imps. Such a nice number, let's try it again.

Bd: 52
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
♠ AKJ94
♥ 2
♦ KQ63
♣ A82

West	East
♠ 52	♠ 107
♥ AK1086543	♥ QJ
♦ 7	♦ AJ1085
♣ J4	♣ KQ93
South	
♠ Q863	
♥ 97	
♦ 942	
♣ 10765	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

If the Chinese Women have an Achilles Heel it might be being overly enthusiastic when they have a fit. This puts a lot of pressure on their opponents, but the judicious use of a red card can be effective when the cards aren't running their way. Here Lu's 4♠ was reasonable but Liu's raise looks wild. I don't see how you can hope to make 5♠ unless partner is coming again without your input. So it proved. Had South passed, North was going to double 5♥, and now would you pass or bid as South? Bareket might well have doubled 5♠ but +300 was still a reasonable result.

Perhaps all that this proves is that it was Barel who earned his imps in the other room by his decision to double at both of his turns to compete. 5♥x had to go down one and the Israeli lead was now 53.

The lead went up to 55 when Bareket found a sneaky play to limit his undertricks in an ugly partscore, then went up once again by a further 8 imps when Lu and Liu seem to have had a bidding accident (or perhaps one player lost an ace) in which a 12-count facing an opening bid settled for a partscore without trying for game.

At this point it was clear to both Chinese pairs that things weren't going well. But as the quotation goes, "Cheer up, things could always be worse...so I cheered up and they got worse."

Bd: 58	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 5		
Vul: Both	♥ Q862		
	♦ 63		
	♣ AKQ1084		
West		East	
♠ 984		♠ AKJ107	
♥ 95		♥ A	
♦ Q1094		♦ AJ8752	
♣ J953		♣ 7	
	South		
	♠ Q632		
	♥ KJ10743		
	♦ K		
	♣ 62		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♦	2♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
5♦	5♥	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
		1♣(16+)	2♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	5♦	5♥
5♠	All Pass		

5♥x lost the obvious three aces. 5♠ on the lead of a heart to the jack saw Wang cash one top trump, then lead out the ♠J. South won and played a second heart as West pitched a club, then ruffed the ♣A with the ten. Now Wang led a spade to the nine to play the ♦Q and run it, losing to the king. After that, she scored just her last trump since the defenders could run winners at her while South still had a trump left. That was -600, and 13 more imps, making it 46-0 on the set and a lead for Israel of 77.

China scored their first imps of the set when they bid game over a strong notrump, while in the other room a strong club acted as more of an interference. Then a normal but delicate 3NT for Israel, with all the suits breaking, was a push at +400 against an eccentric Chinese 5♣ on a 4-3 fit, again with all the suits breaking to allow this to come home.

China scored their second swing of the set when they reached a better partscore in somewhat fortuitous fashion.

Bd: 61	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AJ1065		
Vul: Both	♥ 432		
	♦ K42		
	♣ QJ		
West		East	
♠ 7		♠ KQ843	
♥ AKJ107		♥ 95	
♦ A97		♦ 10853	
♣ 10983		♣ 74	
	South		
	♠ 92		
	♥ Q86		
	♦ QJ6		
	♣ AK652		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Rdbl	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Zack's pass of 1♠ persuaded Barel that his partner would be more suitable for spades than was actually the case. Even so, a double of 2♦ was surely a possibility here. The defense to 2♠ started with three rounds of hearts and Wang pitched a club, so Shen played one. Then, after a trump finesse lost, Shen got in with the ♦A to give her partner the ruff, with a further spade loser to come for down two.

Mind you, 2NT wasn't going to be a bed of roses till spades broke 5-1. That meant West could never get East on lead. In fact, Lengy played three rounds of hearts against 2NT and declarer then simply unblocked clubs and played on diamonds for +120 and 8 imps.

That all got swallowed up and more on another strange mis-evaluation in a competitive auction by the Chinese.

Bd: 62	North
Dir: East	♠ Q10
Vul: None	♥ AQ854
	♦ ---
	♣ K97542
West	East
♠ AK54	♠ J962
♥ 732	♥ ---
♦ J97	♦ AK842
♣ A108	♣ QJ63
South	
♠ 873	
♥ KJ1096	
♦ Q10653	
♣ ---	

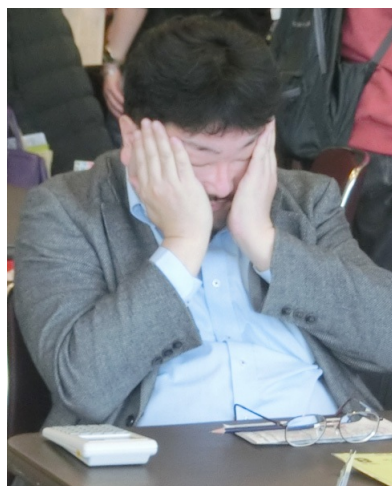
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♦	1♥
Dbl	4♥	4♠	5♥
6♠	7♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	7♥	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>
		1♦	1♥
Dbl	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Lu's decision to save looks wild, since a double surely would have got her a diamond ruff at trick one. After a trump lead against 7♥x, the ♣A ruffing out meant that declarer had six clubs and five trump tricks, but lost the last two. Had the ♣A not fallen declarer would have played on a cross-ruff to take ten tricks. Nice enough, but after a trump lead against 5♥x Zack played the same line for +650 and another 14 imps to Israel. The final set finished 60-15, Israel, winners by 76 imps. A thoroughly deserved victory after three comprehensive wins in the KO stage.



"Oy, yoi yoi..."





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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.

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 and we'll ensure you have the correct paperwork.



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
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 Open Pairs has changed

Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

Every hour from
05:40 to 17:40

From the YCAT
(100 min)
¥3,500

(Note: the schedule in yesterday's bulletin was from 2017, when there were fewer Narita trips. Above is the current schedule, for 2019, and includes twice as many scheduled trips.)