

YOKOHAMA Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 24, 2019
Bulletin Number 7

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

David Mossop–Alex Hydes Yokohama Open Pairs Champs



Yokohama Open Pairs 1st

Top Finishers in Yokohama Open Pairs

Yokohama Open Pairs (pairs)		
Rank	Pair	Score
1	David Mossop–Alex Hydes	1769.85
2	Sumit Mukherjee–Debabrata Majumder	1707.72
3	Nie Weiping–Li Jie	1670.6
4	Zhao Jinlong–Jiang Yi	1631.64
5	Zhuang Zejun–Chen Gang	1631.55
6	Li Bin–Chen Yuechen	1625.52
7	Eric Leong–Cecilia Rimstedt	1602.05
8	Ran Jingrong–Shao Zijian	1586.5
9	Masayuki Ino–Hiroya Abe	1583.84
10	Takeshi Niekawa–Kazuhiko Yamada	1581.03



Yokohama Open Pairs 2nd



Yokohama Open Pairs 3rd

Yokohama Bridge Festival 2019

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to thank all our corporate sponsors for once again joining with **JCBL** to produce a bridge event of the highest quality and competitiveness. The **Yokohama Bridge Festival** attracts the best players in the world, many of whom consider this one of their best bridge experiences. Once again, congratulations to the sponsors and especially to the **JCBL** staff.

As always Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, are wonderful places for this event. Each year we marvel at the developments in the area, and this year is no exception. The Conference Center is a terrific playing venue and the Pacifico area is just teeming with construction. The weather this year was, for many of us, a good deal better than we would have experienced back home. As always, everyone has been warm and friendly and it is our continuing great pleasure to return to each festival to reunite with our many good friends to share the happy times and the fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts. As always we wish everyone love and joy for every day of the year.

The significant prizes and broad participation continue to make the **Yokohama Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar, and one which continues to grow in prestige. This year's field of 52 teams in the Yokohama Cup included many top teams as well as many improving Japanese teams. The quality of bridge was excellent, as usual, providing us with many well-played and well-defended hands for our archives. We hope our role here has in some small way contributed to the tournament's and JCBL's continued success. This year's festival was by any measure a success.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who provided us with deals, stories and other material to help us keep you informed. Many thanks to *Robert Geller*, the JCBL liason to this event. Thanks also to *Matt Smith*, Tournament Director par excellence, who ran a smooth and pleasant tournament; to *Omasa-san* for his awesome support in all things large and small; to *Natsumi Yoshikawa* and *Rie Komamoto*, for their wonderful pictures that you see in these bulletins (which as usual we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor); to *Nakamura-san* and *Kido-san* for their general support in so many things but especially for their suffering with us long into the night so that you may have daily bulletins fresh with your morning coffee, and for their incredible work with the pictures, results, hand records and many other things too numerous to list here; to *Maeda-san* for his work with BBO and to BBO itself; to *Koike-san*, *Hisatomi-san* and *Ishibashi-san* who helped to direct the events this weekend; and to the many others who provided us with moral support (and more importantly lunch) during our long work sessions. Thanks also to the many volunteers who perform the myriad functions critical to making this tournament a success, while we remain largely oblivious to what is going on around us, absorbed in our work. As you know, we consider all of you part of our extended family here in Japan. And finally, many thanks to the players, who produced such exciting bridge.



Warmest regards, **Rich, Barry, and the Bulletin Staff**

Yokohama Open Pairs: A Taste of Session One

Eric Leong and Cecilia Rimstedt ended Session One with a narrow lead on the field of the Yokohama Open Pairs. Most of their really good results had come from excellent views in the auction while others had come from a fine use of the red card.

Bd: 2
Dlr: N-S
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 7653
♥ 109864
♦ 1076
♣ J

West
♠ AK104
♥ AK72
♦ AQ9
♣ 65

East
♠ 982
♥ J3
♦ J543
♣ 8432

South
♠ QJ
♥ Q5
♦ K82
♣ AKQ1097

West <i>Rimstedt</i>	North	East <i>Leong</i>	South
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	Pass	1♦	2♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Leong knew Rimstedt had extras without four diamonds and therefore was likely to have better than a strong notrump. Even so, his pass was by no means clear-cut. (At a different vulnerability — e.g., both vulnerable — passing might lead to -180 but avoid a penalty of 200 or worse.) Today the gamble paid off big time. Rimstedt cashed her four major-suit winners and exited with a low spade. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the ♣J to lead a diamond to the king, but when that lost to the ace his fate was sealed; -500 was worth 47 out of 53 MP for E/W.

Bd: 13
Dlr: North
Vul: N-S

North
♠ QJ109
♥ J10
♦ K109743
♣ 4

West
♠ AK85
♥ 963
♦ 6
♣ AQ872

East
♠ 432
♥ 874
♦ A852
♣ J65

South
♠ 76
♥ AKQ52
♦ QJ
♣ K1093

West	North <i>Rimstedt</i>	East	South <i>Leong</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	Dbl	3♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Would you have raised to 3♣ as East here? Even facing a sound overcaller I'm not convinced you have enough. But it would not have cost against most pairs, since few of us would be willing to admit we had a penalty double of 3♣ in our bag of tricks; we'd prefer to play this as unbidable extras. However, Leong is a throwback to the days when almost all doubles expressed a desire to defend and Rimstedt has learned by experience that when in doubt, passing Leong's doubles is a good idea. So she sat for 3♣x and led a top spade.

Declarer cashed the top spades and led a third, Leong pitching a heart. When Rimstedt led a fourth spade it might have been right to pitch a heart from dummy, as a loser-on-loser, but declarer ruffed with the five. Leong overruffed, cashed three hearts, then exited with a diamond. When declarer craftily led the ♣6 from dummy, planning to let it run, Leong covered with the ten and still had a trump trick to come for -500 and 49 of 53 MP.

Here's a bidding problem. You hold:

♠ J62
♥ AQ6
♦ J
♣ AJ10762

With no one vulnerable you open 1♣, LHO bids 1NT, partner doubles, and this is passed back to LHO who bids 2♦. Partner bids 4♠. What now?

At the table the player passed, which doesn't seem criminal. This was the full deal:

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 53
♥ K952
♦ KQ103
♣ K84

West
♠ AKQ9874
♥ J4
♦ A6
♣ Q5

East
♠ J62
♥ AQ6
♦ J
♣ AJ10762

South
♠ 10
♥ 10873
♦ 987542
♣ 93

Yes, maybe Leong, South, didn't have quite as much for his overcall as is traditionally associated with such a bid but he claimed his ruffing values made him full-valued for the action. From E/W's perspective, half a top rested on whether they bid the slam. They scored 15 out of 53 for missing it while bidding and making it would have been worth 42 out of 53.

Bd: 23
 Dir: South
 Vul: both

North
 ♠ K9
 ♥ QJ3
 ♦ A97
 ♣ AKJ63

West
 ♠ J63
 ♥ 108
 ♦ 10653
 ♣ 10974

East
 ♠ 54
 ♥ A97642
 ♦ KQ842
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ AQ10872
 ♥ K5
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q852

A natural auction saw Rimstedt offer a choice of slams and Leong did very well to envisage that the ♠J might pose a problem here. In fact, when spades split it was the club ruff against 6♠ that might well have doomed it. (Note: there are 12 tricks in 6NT if East produces a Lightner double of the spade slam.) And indeed that was relevant where Alex Hydes and David Mossop sat N/S. They bid 1♠-2♣ (Dbl) 2♠-3♠; 4♦-5♣; 6♠. When East doubled that Hydes had no way of knowing that his partner had a top heart and not a singleton but he trusted the opponents that slam was going down. So as North he bid 6NT and wrapped it up for 48 out of 53 MP. 6♣ scored 41 MP.

Open Room

West	North <i>Rimstedt</i>	East	South <i>Leong</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	3♣
Pass	3♦	Dbl	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

On Further Review

by Barry Rigal

We always appreciate it when a player comes to the bulletin with details of a good play his opponents made or a good play they missed. Our thanks therefore go to Michael Barel for selflessly giving the bulletin his missed chance for glory.

I've rotated the deal 180 degrees to make the play easier to follow as declarer.

Bd: 27
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

Zack
 ♠ KQ5
 ♥ AQ42
 ♦ AJ73
 ♣ 103

Wang
 ♠ J108
 ♥ K10976
 ♦ 42
 ♣ A87

Shen
 ♠ 72
 ♥ 3
 ♦ KQ10965
 ♣ J942

Barel
 ♠ A9643
 ♥ J85
 ♦ 8
 ♣ KQ65

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Barel</i>
	1NT	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Barel had good reason to assume that the diamonds

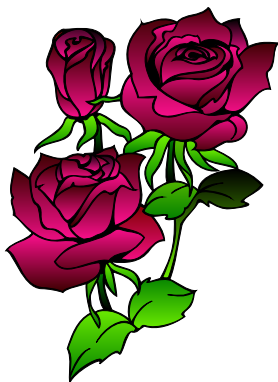
were 7-1 from the auction, and the lead (the ♦4 looks more like a singleton than a doubleton) reinforced it. To avoid ruffs and trump promotions he drew three rounds of trumps, then played Wang for the ♣J by leading a low club from hand toward the ten. This line caters to Wang holding the ♣J, with or without the ace, and even to ♣AJ(x) with Shen.

When Shen showed up with the jack, it was necessary for her to return a club for the defense to prevail. But she made what seemed like the more natural play of a top diamond. Barel ruffed and finessed in hearts to lead a club to the king and ace. Wang exited with a club, dummy discarding a heart, to give Barel the following ending:

Zack		Shen
♠ —		♠ —
♥ A4		♥ ?
♦ J7		♦ Q109
♣ —		♣ ?
Wang		Barel
♠ —		♠ 9
♥ K109?		♥ J8
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ ?		♣ 5

[The presence of two “?”s in each of the E/W hands is intended to indicate that one or the other card is present in that hand, but not both.] In this ending Barel did not know which defender had the missing small heart and which the ♣9. But it did not matter. At the table he cashed his last trump, then exited in clubs and went down. What he needed to have done was to lead his losing club without releasing his trump. Notice what would have happened then.

If Wang wins the trick he can pitch a losing diamond from dummy and she is endplayed whether she leads a high or a low heart. If Wang shows out then Shen is going to win the trick and has only diamonds left. So pitch the small heart from the table and Shen must concede the rest whether she leads a high or a low diamond.



A Very Special Thank You

To the treasured patrons of the 2019 Yokohama Bridge Festival

**Pacifico Yokohama
Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel
Fuji Xerox**



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