

# Off to the Far East

Part 1

## The 13<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

By Barry Rigal

The attention of the bridge world in early February is firmly concentrated in the Far East thanks to the attractive lure of two prestigious invitational events placed back to back: the NEC Cup in Yokohama, Japan, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of February and, starting two days later, the Yeh Bros Cup in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei. Since I had the privilege of compiling the daily bulletin for both events it will be my pleasure to share with you some of the most interesting and dramatic hands I came across, starting this month with the NEC Cup.

The format of the tournament is based on an eight round Swiss of twenty boards per match, with the top eight finishers clashing in direct knock-out matches over forty boards leading to semifinals and a sixty-four boards final. As usual, the roster of participating teams included top class names like the holders Netherlands, Sweden (known here as Team Mahaffey in the name of their non playing sponsor), Hackett, Israel, Australia, Canada and quite a few others.

The third qualifying round saw an interesting match between Israel and YOI (a strong Japanese team which was a finalist two years ago).

Bd: 3 Dir: South East-West Vulnerable

♠ AQ7542			
♥ K1065			
♦ J10			
♣ 7			
♠ 106		♠ K	
♥ A		♥ J8732	
♦ A732		♦ KQ864	
♣ KJ9842		♣ A6	
	♠ J983		
	♥ Q94		
	♦ 95		
	♣ Q1053		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	Dbl	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	Dbl	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

This board has many points of interest. How are E/W supposed to reach 6♦ in the face of violent spade bidding from the opponents? Barel-Campanile had an auction that was all about finding the best game. 5♦ made +620 in peace and quiet; would it be enough? Well, after the same start Yokoi elected to repeat his clubs and

that got him to 5♣... and then a moment later to 5♣ doubled. Yokoi had a chance to retreat to 5♦ but did not avail himself of it, and now it was up to the defenders to lead and continue spades. That was what Doron Yadlin did, and there was no trump coup to allow declarer to avoid losing two trumps. Down 200 meant 13imps to Israel and a 14-0 lead.

A few boards later, a deal which will have the purists in ecstasy:

Bd: 7 Dealer South – Both Vulnerable

♠ 10432			
♥ KQ985			
♦ K5			
♣ KQ			
♠ AKQJ9		♠ 7	
♥ 106		♥ AJ743	
♦ J93		♦ Q2	
♣ J94		♣ A8752	
	♠ 865		
	♥ 2		
	♦ A108764		
	♣ 1063		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

The world at large does not need to hear the experts preaching the virtues of sound two-level overcalls; we all know it and yet we see bids like Ino's 2♥ perpetrated all the time. It's nice to see them punished "pour encourager les autres". Barel, having opened, felt obliged to double in the balancing seat, Campanile was even more charmed to pass. The defenders cashed three spades, Campanile pitching diamonds, and now Barel shifted to a low heart to prevent the ruff in dummy—and East ducked the king. Declarer had his first trick, but Campanile ruffed the ♦K and played ace and another club. At this point the defenders had five tricks in the bag. They were also sure of three more trump tricks, and eventually the fourth spade winner. Since E/W had done well enough in the other room just to find their making game and collect 600, the damage was a mere 11 imps and a bigger lead for Israel. Incidentally, a list of the players who overcalled 2♥ will be made available unless myself and my collaborators receive the usual bribes.

Later in the match another key board gave plenty of opportunities for a swing:

Bd: 17 Dealer North – None Vulnerable

♠ AQ7			
♥ J105			
♦ QJ1072			
♣ J3			
♠ KJ965		♠ 42	
♥ K9732		♥ Q8	
♦ 9		♦ AK83	
♣ 72		♣ AKQ95	
		♠ 1083	
		♥ A64	
		♦ 654	
		♣ 10864	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass



"Sometimes it takes me so long to play a card that it is hard to stay awake"

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1NT*	Dbl	2♣**
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

♠ -			
♥ 105			
♦ J			
♣ -			
♠ -			♠ -
♥ K97			♥ 8
♦ -			♦ 8
♣ -			♣ Q
			♠ -
			♥ 64
			♦ -
			♣ 10

\*10-12

\*\*Clubs and another

The mini notrump has its advocates, but once in a while you land in deep doo-doo. Still, the opponents do not know that. For example, when Barel heard his opponents run to 2♣ a takeout double might have netted some huge number. But 4♥, unlike 4♠, had some practical play. On a top diamond lead declarer won and led a trump to the nine and queen. Now a club shift was essential to cut communications; then a second club would give the defenders two hearts at the death. But that is far from easy to see. Ino led a top heart, covered all around. There was nothing Imakura could do anymore. The instinctive spade back to avoid dummy ruffing a heart, followed by a club does not work as it allows declarer to set up a nice squeeze position by cashing the ♦K, ruffing a diamond, cashing spades and then going to dummy with the clubs and reaching this position:

When the last club is cashed, North has to either relinquish his heart guard or the ♦J. At the table after taking the ♥A, South chose to return a heart, giving declarer the losing option of finessing. But Barel guessed right to rise with the ♥K and ruff a heart, then ruff a diamond to hand and lead a high trump. Had Ino taken his ♠A and played back a diamond declarer could have arranged to ruff another diamond low in hand and draw the remaining trumps. Ino ducked the ♠J, so Barel played another spade and claimed. Since 4♥ had gone two down in the other room, Israel regained 11 imps to lead 53-40 on the way to a deserved victory against a potential direct contender.

Next we move on to a defensive problem from Match Six between The Latins (Brenner-Frontaura; G. Goded – F. Goded)

and YOI. What do you think your chances are at single-dummy of defeating 6♣?

Bd 11: Dealer South – None Vulnerable

♠ K9			
♥ AJ8			
♦ AKJ875			
♣ 63			
♠ 1087652	N	♠ A43	
♥ Q7532	W	♥ 94	
♦ 10	E	♦ Q942	
♣ 2	S	♣ QJ87	
		♠ QJ	
		♥ K106	
		♦ 63	
		♣ AK10954	

You appear to have defensive tricks coming out of your ears, ♠A and ♣QJxx—not so fast. Say partner makes what seems to be the best lead of a spade, to let you cash your ace before the rats get at it. You return a spade and declarer leads a club to the ten, a diamond to the ace, a club to the jack and king, and then plays and ruffs a diamond. Now he finesses in hearts, ruffs a diamond, goes to the ♥A, and has achieved this position:

♠ -			
♥ 8			
♦ J8			
♣ -			
♠ 108	N	♠ 4	
♥ Q	W	♥ -	
♦ -	E	♦ -	
♣ -	S	♣ Q7	
		♠ -	
		♥ K	
		♦ -	
		♣ A9	

Declarer leads winning diamonds from dummy and East's goose is cooked. Two possible defenses might occur to you. The first is to duck the ♠A at trick one. This leaves declarer in the wrong hand but he can use dummy's entries to finesse clubs and ruff out diamonds and eventually lead the fifth diamond and pitch his second spade, while East ruffs in with his trump trick.

The second is for West to rise with the ♥Q on the first play in the suit. That would



A family battle in the final: the Yadlin brothers vs Goded father and son

work if the ♥J and ♥10 were switched perhaps, but not here.

So what could the defenders do about this? The best thing is to have a partner like Gonzalo Goded who knows to lead a heart and not a spade! The heart lead takes the entry out of dummy prematurely. Now declarer can't quite arrange the trump coup against best defense.

At the end of the round robin the top eight teams moved on to the quarter finals, played over two sets of 20 hands each. Worth noting the surprising elimination of last year's winners, the Netherlands (Bertens - Bakkeren; Drijver - Prooijen) which finished only 11<sup>th</sup> after a heavy 22-8 loss against Canada in their last round robin match.

The quarterfinal contest between YOI and NTE (Kokish-Charney; Hackett-Armstrong; Picus) was the closest one and eventually YOI knocked out their opponents after a good second half showing.

In another quarterfinal Israel was having the upper hand against Canada. On Board 13 their gain came from a truly spectacular defense. Here Migry Zur Campanile and Michael Barel found themselves defending a 2♣ contract by Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis of Canada.

Dealer North – Both Vulnerable

♠ AQJ872			
♥ Q			
♦ K85			
♣ J32			
♠ K6	N	♠ 543	
♥ A86	W	♥ J10974	
♦ AJ942	E	♦ Q76	
♣ AQ6	S	♣ 85	
		♠ 109	
		♥ K532	
		♦ 103	
		♣ K10974	

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nicholas</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Judith</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2♣	All Pass	

Migry Campanile, sitting East, led a club and received her ruff at trick three. In this same position defenders at other tables shifted either to a high or low heart, but whatever they did declarer was able to build an entry to dummy to play diamonds or to reach club discards for the diamond losers. Migry realized that the auction had marked declarer as precisely 6=1=3=3 and she needed to kill the diamond ruff. So she shifted to a low spade and now it was Barel's turn to shine. He carefully played low and that meant that once he



took the ♥Q with the ♥A, he could play back the ♠K and make sure that dummy could not get in.

The first semifinal saw Sweden Mahaffey (Bertheau - Nystrom; Fredin - Fallenius) face off vs. The Latins, while in the other one Israel would play YOI. The pundits predicted a Sweden-Israel final but nobody had consulted Brenner & Co who obviously thought otherwise and proved at the table that their Latin wives were more than a match for the Swedes, earning their team a berth in the finals with a 91-75 win.

Israel defeated YOI in the second semifinal so the 13<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup would be decided in a first time confrontation between Israel and The Latins.

Israel started off strongly:  
Dealer East; Both Vulnerable

♠ Q87			
♥ A108			
♦ K10985			
♣ Q5			
♠ K1043			♠ J965
♥ 2			♥ Q9643
♦ Q43			♦ J7
♣ K10942			♣ A8
			♠ A2
			♥ KJ75
			♦ A62
			♣ J763

In the Open Room Frontaura-Brenner played in 3♦ on the N/S cards, making nine tricks. In the Closed Room Doron Yadlin ended up as declarer in 3NT after this auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led a spade and Doron won the ♠A, cashed the ♦A and ducked a diamond to East who sent back a second spade. West won the ♠K and played a spade to declarer's ♠Q, who now ran three diamonds, watching the defenders' discards. When



Migry and Barel vs Nick and Judith Gartaganis (Canada)

Federico (East) pitched the ♥43, then a spade, declarer decided he had started with five hearts. So he cashed the ♥A and finessed him for the ♥Q; very well done.

The first set of 16 boards saw Israel jump off to a 43-12 lead. Early in the second set this board showed what a difference in style (or hand evaluation, or chutzpah) could be found between the two rooms.

Bd 18 – Dealer East; North-South Vulnerable

♠ -			
♥ AKJ5			
♦ Q982			
♣ J9853			
♠ AQ93			♠ 108754
♥ 76			♥ Q82
♦ KJ653			♦ A104
♣ 102			♣ KQ
			♠ KJ62
			♥ 10943
			♦ 7
			♣ A764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbf	Rdbl	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
All Pass			

Barel's 1♦ opening looks normal, as do Migry's 1♠ and Frontaura's double. In fact, all the calls in the remainder of the auction look eminently reasonable to us. So why was the board passed out in the Closed Room? Maybe *The Shadow* knows, hmm? 4♥ has only three obvious losers (a diamond, a club and a trump), but that does not mean that there are ten tricks. On a trump lead (say) declarer wins and plays ace and a club. East wins and plays a spade (as good as anything), ruffed in dummy, and now declarer can either play a diamond or cash a second trump and run clubs. The defense will eventually come to four tricks as declarer will run out of trumps and have to lose three tricks at the end to go with a trump loser. In fact, Brenner did receive a trump lead and played the hand as suggested—up to a point. He won and played ace and a club. Migry won and returned a spade, jack, queen, ruff. But Brenner failed to cash the ♥A and play on clubs. He played a diamond and Migry rose ace to play a second spade, ruffed in dummy. Brenner then ruffed a diamond, led a club to dummy (East pitching a spade), and ruffed a second diamond. But now Migry was in control. She ruffed the fourth club, stranding dummy's last club trick, and now Brenner had to go down

two; -200. 5 imps to Israel, leading 48-17.

The 70-31 score at the end of the first half meant that Israel looked to be firmly in command, however the third set saw a steady comeback by the Latins who managed to close in to 84-81 with three boards to go. Israel and Doron Yadlin must have sensed the danger and rose up to the challenge quickly generating two double-digits swings in the remaining hands to close the set at a more reassuring score of 104-81.

Bd 47 – Dealer South; North-South vulnerable

♠ AJ543			
♥ KQ53			
♦ A9			
♣ 97			
♠ 92		♠ Q1076	
♥ J96		♥ A7	
♦ QJ642		♦ 853	
♣ 654		♣ KQJ3	
	♠ K8		
	♥ 10842		
	♦ K107		
	♣ A1082		

Both tables played 4♥ from the North seat and both declarers were guilty of an imprecision by not ducking the ♣K lead, not that it was necessarily going to matter today. The point is, though, that it does free up lines of communication for the defense outside the trump suit, which may be critical if you plan to ruff spades before drawing trumps. Gonzalo actually played on spades without touching trumps. West got two overruffs in, and the club and the ♥A meant one down. If declarer had taken one round of trumps early, his ♥K would have lost to the ace, letting him draw a second round of trumps and avoid all danger. In the other room Doron did lead a heart to the king at trick two—and Brenner ducked. This was truly excellent defense. If declarer now followed the normal line of ruffing spades he would run into the buzz-saw of the over-ruffs. Now you see why ducking trick one is so important. No. Throughout this tournament the Yadlins have demonstrated their ability to do the



*We have done it again!*



*The Latins celebrate their second place finish and the \$6000 prize that goes with it*

right thing at the right time (or only to make the wrong play when it does not matter). On this deal Doron's choice of going to the ♠K to lead a second heart would have been fatal if spades were four-two and East had ♥AJ. Not today; it was the winning line. 12 imps back to Israel, back up 104-81. That essentially marked the end of The Latins' challenge, in the last 16 boards Israel scored a 40-24 partial to mark up

a 144-105 victory in a match where, apart from a stretch of ten deals where the Latin had a purple patch and scored 50 imps, Israel demonstrated yet again why they are such a formidable team in this event. They held their opponents to about an imp-and-a-half per board—always a sign of good bridge—and in the semi- and quarter-finals they lost only 120 imps in 80 deals.



# Off to the Far East

## Part 2

Barry Rigal

Last month I reported on the NEC Cup in Yokohama, impressively won by Israel. The morning after the NEC Cup prize-giving ceremony, quite a few teams flew from Yokohama straight to Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, to join a stellar array of participants to the Yeh Cup, the second stop in our whirlwind bridge tour of the Far East. The Yeh Cup is named after Mr Chen Yeh, a very wealthy individual with a genuine passion for the game that has led him to organise and sponsor a competition to which only the very best foreign teams are invited to take part in order to contest the rich prize-money, this year totalling an appetizing 160000\$.

The 24 participating teams included the top four finishers in the last Bermuda Bowl (Norway, USA1, Netherlands and South Africa), some of the top teams from the last European Championships (Italy, Ireland, Sweden and Poland) and many other powerful formations like Russia, Egypt, Australia, France, Denmark, USA2 and so on. The competition has a rather unusual format, known as a double elimination system (meaning that you need to lose twice in order to be eliminated): after a ten rounds preliminary Swiss based on ten boards matches, the top 16 teams qualify to the next knock-out phase split in two sections, 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> go to the "Winners Pool" while the others go to the "Repechage pool". The big difference is that the losers in the match-ups in the Repechage Pool are eliminated (the assumption being that their 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> place finish in the qualifying Swiss meant that they were deemed to have already lost a match) while the losers from the Winners Pool are to be the next challengers to face

the winners from the Repechage Pool again in a direct knock out. Eventually one of the finalists will be the undefeated team from the upper elimination bracket which will meet the surviving team from the lower elimination bracket. This somewhat complex system actually works quite well and gives each team a chance to come back from a loss, while still privileging the rights of winning teams.

What a tangled web we weave...

Onward to a board from the third match of the qualifying phase where we see that there is no limit to the way that defenders can play on declarer's nerves.

Dealer East; East-West Vulnerable

	♠ KJ1076	
	♥ K98	
	♦ AQ	
	♣ K93	
♠ A98		♠ Q54
♥ Q542		♥ 1076
♦ J864		♦ 107532
♣ A5		♣ Q10
	♠ 32	
	♥ AJ3	
	♦ K9	
	♣ J87642	

West	North	East	South
Bosenberg	Hampson	Eber	Kranyak
	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Stayman for 5-card majors

In the match between USA2 and South Africa, Eber led a diamond against 3NT.



Geoff Hampson

Geoff Hampson put up dummy's king as Bosenberg followed with the ♦8, strongly suggesting holding four of them. Declarer now played a club to the king and Eber calmly dropped the queen under it. He knew declarer was 5-2 in spades and diamonds, and whether he had three or four clubs, he could be sure that the ♣Q was dead in the water. The play worked better than he could have hoped. Declarer took the card at face value and, allegedly unable to set up clubs with a residual ♣A10 in West, he elected to go after the heart and the spade finesse. When he tried a heart to the ♥J the roof fell in; down three. But it is well known that there are more ways of killing a cat than by choking it with cream. When Migry Campanile was on lead after 1NT-3NT she kicked off with a spade; none of this fourth-highest nonsense for her. Barel returned the suit,



Israel Yadlin

and now Campanile shifted to a diamond. Declarer ran the spades now, and Campanile had to find two discards; she pitched a heart, then the ♣10. Declarer now elected to cross to the ♥A and lead a club to the nine, confident to find the now singleton ♣A with East. Oops!

### The I's Have It

After three matches in the Swiss, Israel and Italy 2 were at the top of the table, proving yet again the old adage that the toughest teams to meet at bridge begin with the letter I (It has been suggested that the letter L yields the weakest opponents, but by that I mean no insult to Latvia, Luxemburg and Lithuania).

There were two critical boards in their fourth round match: one was where Michael Barel had to negotiate a seemingly impossible 3NT contract on this layout: Dealer North; East-West Vulnerable

♠ 732			
♥ K105			
♦ K87			
♣ J752			
♠ J964			♠ KQ5
♥ Q986			♥ J32
♦ AJ			♦ 104
♣ AQ8			♣ K10963
	♠ A108		
	♥ A74		
	♦ Q96532		
	♣ 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbf	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Garozzo led the ♦7 and De Falco strangely inserted the ♦9 over dummy's ♦4. Barel now had time to drive out the ♠A and gather 10 tricks instead of the six he was entitled to. Grazie mille, Dano! The second deal involved rather more thoughtful play. (Both Israel Yadlin and John Armstrong for England played the deal in precisely this fashion but I heard it from Israel first!) Dealer North – Both Vulnerable

♠ Q			♠ J10643
♥ K942			♥ 106
♦ 97543			♦ KJ6
♣ KJ3			♣ 864
	♠ A97		
	♥ AQ73		
	♦ A10		
	♣ Q1075		

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Doron Y.</i>	<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Israel Y.</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Israel won the diamond lead in hand and immediately led a club to the ♣9. When that won the trick he led a heart to the ♥Q. The defenders won and cleared diamonds, so he won the third diamond and cashed the two top spades, forcing a diamond out of West. Now came the two top heart winners and then declarer exited with the fourth heart to Versace, who was forced to lead a club away from his king for the 13<sup>th</sup> trick.

### A shiftless defender?

On this deal from match 8, most tables made 3NT, however look at this defence from Migry Campanile in the match between Israel and France.

Dealer South – Both Vulnerable

♠ AKJ4			♠ Q952
♥ AQ107			♥ 85432
♦ Q93			♦ K2
♣ 87			♣ J3
♠ 1086			♠ 73
♥ KJ9			♥ 6
♦ A106			♦ J8754
♣ Q1065			♣ AK942

Migry led a spade as East against 3NT, and now declarer's trick count was up to seven. North, Mark Bompis, now made the natural if potentially unsuccessful play of the ♦Q from hand, Migry winning the ♦K. If she routinely returned a heart or spade, as was the case at many tables, declarer has no problems establishing diamonds and returning to dummy to make use of them. In fact on vugraph one table played a spade, the other played back a diamond. But Migry returned a club, and now declarer had no chance. Well done and a fully deserved 13 imps when the game made at the other table.

At the end of the round robin the top eight teams (Netherlands, Italy 1 and 2, Sweden, Yeh, USA1, England and Norway) were admitted to the knock-outs in the Winners pool while the teams placed 9<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> (Russia, Israel, USA2, Ireland, France, Japan, Hong Kong and Egypt) went on to the Repechage Pool and sudden death knock-outs.

### Knock-out 1

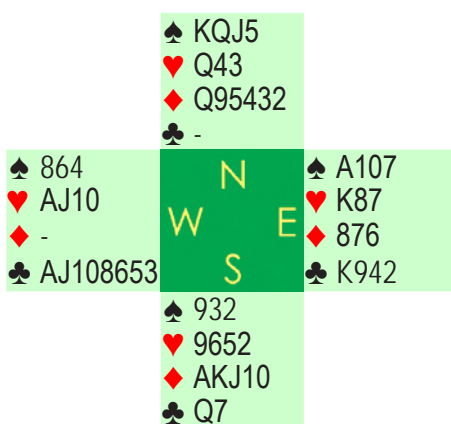
Dealer West; Both Vulnerable

♠ KQ8			♠ A5
♥ Q1093			♥ AJ
♦ K9			♦ AJ87
♣ 9843			♣ AQ1076
♠ J76432			♠ 109
♥ 5			♥ K87642
♦ Q10432			♦ 65
♣ 2			♣ KJ5

When you're hot, you're hot, as a late US President once commented watching a Marilyn Monroe movie. When Ireland played Russia Hugh McGann opened 2♠ with the West cards to show spades and diamonds and less than an opening bid – he surely had all of that! Now there was no holding Tom Hanlon back, and McGann reached 6♦. There seems to be no choice to taking the diamond finesse, and Hugh racked up 1370 when it succeeded.

In the match between USA2 and Israel, Geoff Hampson sat North and heard Campanile-Barel bid 2♠-2NT-3♦-4♣-5♦-6♦. 4♣ set diamonds as trumps and was a slam-try and 5♦ rejected it. Hampson was sure that the ♦A would be on his right, so he kicked off with a spectacularly hot lead of the ♦9. Barel, who was declarer in the West seat, eyed it fishily for a while then must have shrugged his shoulders and decided to take the lead at face value from 9x or 9xx and rose with ♦A. Curtains and down one.

Dealer North; None Vulnerable



The second half started off with a text-book deal; quite a few of the pairs found the 5♦ sacrifice that costs only 300 and some of the E/W pairs over-reached to play 6♣, a contract that has no play. But what about 5♣? Although you would expect everybody who reached that spot to make their contract, it is worth emphasizing that the success or failure of 5♣ does not depend on the heart guess. Michael Barel, for example ducked the spade lead, won the next spade, then ruffed a diamond. A club to the king for a diamond ruff, a club to the nine for a third diamond ruff set the stage for the end-play. He exited with the third

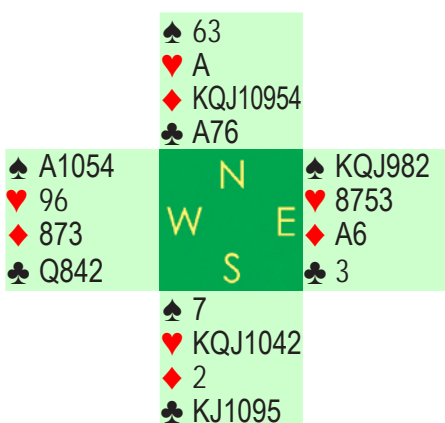
spade and waited for a heart shift or a ruff and discard; either way, the contract was safe, and an 11 imp gain when 6♣ was doubled and set 100 in the other room.

**Knock-out 2**

The knock-out matches in the Winners pool would feature Sweden-Norway and USA1-Italy2. There were four matches in the second pool; the four survivors would join the two losers from the top bracket for three-way matches the next day. In the Repechage pool the match-ups were Israel-Italy1, Yeh-Ireland, England-Egypt and Netherlands-Japan.

Half-way through the set, Norway and Sweden were level, Italy 2 led by two. These were the two deals that decided who would be the two unbeaten teams.

Dealer East; None Vulnerable



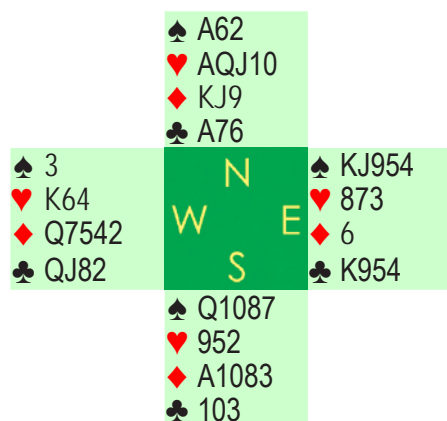
In the Closed Room of USA1-Italy2, Garozzo jumped to 3♥ (intermediate) over 1♠. Then when raised to 4♥ he competed to 5♥ over 4♠. West had no reason to lead a club and 5♥ rolled home. By contrast, Jacobs heard his partner overcall 2♥. He bid 4♦ over 3♠, then bid 5♦ when the auction reverted to him at 4♠. The defenders led the singleton club. Declarer unblocked hearts, then led a second club and Giubilo ruffed and played the ♠K. Versace very carefully overtook to play a third club (essential if his partner had the bare ♦K instead of the ♦A). Down one instead of two but still 11 imps. It would be Sweden-Italy II in the undefeated pool. Meanwhile Egypt, Israel and Yeh had mounted comebacks to survive, along with Netherlands. Those four teams, plus the losers from the top bracket, Norway

and USA1, would fight it out for two spots the next day.

**Knock-out 3**

In the Winners pool Sweded edged out Italy 2 in a close match and qualified to the final. The Repechage pool was now down to six 'once-defeated' teams. Two triplets, Netherlands-Norway-Israel and USA1-Yeh-Egypt would be fighting for survival. In the second half, USA1 won comfortably enough. The drama came in the first three-way match. At the half Norway had a big lead over Netherlands and a 9 imp lead over Israel, who led Netherlands by 7 imps, both teams eventually went to defeat the Dutch, so it all came down to Norway-Israel. Whoever won the match would advance; a draw would leave Israel to go forward. The match was incredibly tight and Israel was one imp down as the last board arrived.

Dealer West; None Vulnerable



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Groethelm	Doron Y.	Tundal	Israel Y.
	1♣	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Barel	Kvam	Campanile	Helgemo
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	



