

Yeh! *by Derrick Browne*

Each year, Taiwanese magnate Yeh Chen sponsors the big-money international bridge tournament the Yeh Cup. It is being held from late February to early March on the Gold Coast, the first time it has been held outside of Asia.

Of the world's 11 top-ranked players, six are Italian, three are from the USA and two from Norway. Eight of those top players will be in the Yeh Cup. For that matter, 19 of the world's top 31 players are entered in it.

None of these leading world players is Australian. However, some Aussies have been invited to play in the Yeh Cup. Four of these players – Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill and Bobby Richman – won the Trumps Summer Teams on 15 February. Today's column features two deals from that event.

The aggressive style of Nunn and Hans saw them reach the top spot on these cards:

WEST	EAST
S KT92	S AQJ6
H AK8	H QJ742
D 95	D A2
C A843	C J2

Nunn treated the West hand as a 15-17 notrump, upgrading for prime values (aces and kings) and good intermediates (notably the 10-9 of spades) for what more careful point-counters would have added up as a 14-count.

Hans, with the East cards, then pushed to the making slam. Can you see which slam that is?

As is often the case, the 4-4 fit produces an extra trick. Only 11 tricks are available in hearts or notrumps, but 12 tricks are made if spades are trumps. After drawing trumps (three rounds of spades), the hearts were then cashed, discarding a diamond and a club from the West hand, and East's D2 could then be ruffed; making 6S.

In the last round, Nunn and Hans played John and Robert Case. The Case brothers bid and made a tight game that wasn't reached at the other table:

Dealer East, both vul.

WEST	EAST
S T85	S A974
H QJ652	H 974
D 8	D AKJ
C T864	C AKJ

John, sitting East, opened 2NT; while to many this shows 21-22 points, increasingly 20 HCP hands are being opened this way. Robert bid 3D, transfer, so East finished as declarer in 4H.

South's diamond lead presented East with a third trick in that suit, allowing for West's two spade losers to be discarded. With a friendly lie of the cards – North had the Q-x of clubs, while the H10 fell doubleton so the H9 came good – the contract made 11 tricks.