



World Bridge Productions

Presents the

Cavendish^{wbp}

Invitational

Bulletin Number 4

Saturday, May 13, 2000

Editor: Rich Colker

Contributing Editor: Barry Rigal

Garner-Weinstein Lead Star-Studded Field in Y2K Cavendish Pairs

No, not a couple of Steves. After the first two sessions, Steve Garner and *Howard* Weinstein are the leaders of the Y2K Cavendish Pairs. The Chicago-area pair finished second in each of yesterday's sessions to amass a score of 2163, 179 cross-imps ahead of high-priced Bob Hamman and Zia Mahmood, who finished day one with an Orwellian score of 1984. Bob might be superstitious if he wasn't widely regarded as Big Brother himself. (Besides, Bob told your Daily Bulletin editors that he has several pairs of shoes that he bought in 1984, so his score is really just "karma.") In third place with 1644 are World Champions Billy Eisenberg and Freddie Hamilton. We have a message: "Smile, Freddie." Complete first-day standings and session places may be found on p. 3.



"I haven't won this event since 1998, Zia, so I'm due. And while I realize you're no Nick Nickell..."

Special Notice: World Bridge Productions Pairs Pre-Auction

In order to generate interest and facilitate the live WBP Pairs auction, to be held on Saturday morning, May 13, provisions have been made to accept bids prior to the start of the live auction. Here's how it will work:

Arrayed around the Registration Desk (on the second floor of the Country Club, near the playing area) will be preliminary owners' cards for all expected participants. (Not all of these pairs may attend, but the vast majority is expected.) If you wish to bid on a pair you may do so by entering the amount of your bid on the pair's card

and signing your name opposite the bid amount (minimum bid = \$1000). These bids will be considered binding, just as if they been made in the live auction. If your bid is not topped in either the pre or live auctions you will become the owner of the pair and have all of the attendant rights and responsibilities. Remember, each pair must buy back 10% of their purchase price and may buy back up to 40% of themselves if they are so inclined.

Please confirm your bids with the appropriate parties at

Conditions of Contest

In general, it is our intent to allow methods with which other contestants are expected to be familiar. It is also our intent to allow reasonable artificiality in auctions where the bidding side has guaranteed sufficient (high-card) values to invite game. If you have any questions about your own or your opponents' methods, the person to see is Barry Rigal.

WBP Pairs Conditions of Contest

WBP Pairs contestants should be aware that the Conditions of Contest in effect for the Cavendish Pairs will also apply to that event, except that any details which are dependent on the number of tables (such as the total or average number of cross-imps available on each board, or the movement) will be scaled back to take into account the smaller number of tables in the WBP event.

Schedule

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Saturday, May 13th	11:00 AM	WBP Brunch (all invited)	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 nd floor
	11:30 AM	WBP Auction	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 nd floor
	12:30 PM	3 rd Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	12:30 PM	1 st Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
	TBA	4 th Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	TBA	2 nd Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
Sunday, May 14th	12:00 PM	5 th Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	12:00 PM	3 rd Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
	5:30 PM	Awards Ceremony and Closing Cocktail Party	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 nd floor

Entrants for the WBP Pairs (as of press time)

1	Peter Friedland – David Siebert	25	Armand Barfus – Maurice Friedman
2	John Lantgen – Reese Milner	26	Russ Samuel – Sean Samuels
3	Jim M. Foster – Allen W. Hawkins Jr.	27	Christal Henner-Welland – Uday Ivatury
4	Richard Hunt – Mark Itabashi	28	Ralph Cohen – Marvin Shapiro
5	Rob Crawford – Dan Jacob	29	Jonathan Greenspan – Beverly Perry
6	Louise Childs – Gene Freed	30	Leszek Rabiega – Edward Wojewoda
7	Joe Elsbury – Esta Van Zandt	31	Alan Cokin – Jill Meyers
8	Jack Blair – Daniel Rotman	32	Cameron Doner – Mike Lucas
9	Stan Sather – Dennis Sorenson	33	Steve Scott – Haig Tchamitch
10	Darryle Pedersen – R. Schwartz	34	Larry Cohen – Jill Levin
11	Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	35	Srikanth Kodayam – Mark Ralph
12	Peter Nagy – Joey Silver	36	Benito Garozzo – Rich Reisig
13	Steve Beatty – Bernie Yomtov	37	Bob Morris – Barbara Sion
14	K. Anand – Ghassan Menachi	38	Kurkowski – Roger Lord
15	Michael McNamara – David Yates	39	Jurek Czyzowicz – Darren Wolpert
16	George Berger – Brian Glubok	40	John Solodar – Judith Weisman
17	Emil Dojaru – Sorin Pleacof	41	Sid Brownstein – Bill Wickham
18	Wayne Chu – Leslie Amoils	42	Jack Coleman – Chris Compton
19	Bill Roberts – John Roberts	43	Rene Mancuso – Shawn Quinn
20	Manuel Capucho – Maria João Lara	44	Joe Kivel – Jon Wittes
21	Phillip Becker – Kumar Bhatia	45	Petra Hamman – Nancy Passell
22	Venkatrao Koneru – Hemant Lall	46	Disa Cheeks – Lynn Deas
23	Bill Jacobson – Keith Woolf	47	Jim Robison – Jerry Weinstein
24	Bill Doroshow – Nate Ward	48	Michael Elinescu – Verone Lungu

Cavendish Invitational Pairs Standings

Current Place	Auction Rank	Pair	Score	Auction Price
1	13	Steve Garner – Howard Weinstein	2163	31,000
2	4/5	Bob Hamman – Zia Mahmood	1984	49,000
3	20/22	Billy Eisenberg – Fred Hamilton	1644	22,000
4	35/36	Michael Courtney – Charles Wigoder	1262	12,000
5	25/27	Marty Fleisher – Eric Rodwell	1235	17,000
6	28/31	Drew Casen – Bill Pollack	1014	16,000
7	10	Curtis Cheek – Billy Miller	896	37,000
8	41/50	Chris Convery – Craig Gower	712	10,000
9	4/5	David Berkowitz – Larry Cohen	695	49,000
10	20/22	Billy Cohen – Ron Smith	695	22,000
11	8/9	Paul Chemla – Alain Levy	690	40,000
12	32/33	Michel Abecassis – Jean-Christophe Quantin	646	15,000
13	41/50	Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	577	10,000
14	11	Mike Passell – Eddie Wold	555	36,000
15	6	Peter Fredin – Magnus Lindkvist	502	44,000
16	24	Bart Bramley – Sidney Lazard	460	20,000
17	41/50	Dan Morse – Adam Wildavsky	361	10,000
18	19	Sam Lev – Henry Mansell	349	23,000
19	37/40	Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn	313	11,000
20	23	Boye Brogeland – Espen Erichsen	208	21,000
21	3	Norberto Bocchi – Giorgio Duboin	198	51,000
22	41/50	George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	182	10,000
23	25/27	Richie Schwartz – Alan Sontag	134	17,000
24	25/27	Russ Ekeblad – John Sutherlin	110	17,000
25	28/31	Bjorn Fallenius – Mike Moss	96	16,000
26	1	Robert Levin – Steve Weinstein	5	55,000
27	37/40	Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	-18	11,000
28	12	Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss	-94	32,000
29	41/50	Mike Albert – Marc Jacobus	-198	10,000
30	34	Robert Blanchard – Jim Krekorian	-215	13,000
31	20/22	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	-220	22,000
32	28/31	Michael Cornell – Lionel Wright	-267	16,000
33	41/50	Andrzej Knap – Gerhard Schiesser	-355	10,000
34	41/50	Aidan Ballantyne – Joe Jabon	-394	10,000
35	14/16	Perry Johnson – Jeff Meckstroth	-415	26,000
36	37/40	Grant Baze – Mike Whitman	-557	11,000
37	2	Piotr Gawrys – Jacek Pszczola	-597	52,000
38	18	Andy Robson – Rita Shugart	-637	23,500
39	14/16	Roger Bates – Kyle Larsen	-758	26,000
40	7	Gabriel Chagas – Geir Helgemo	-793	42,000
41	17	Dano DeFalco – Guido Ferraro	-880	25,000
42	8/9	Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson	-909	40,000
43	28/31	Ishmael Del'Monte – Jason Hackett	-957	16,000
44	14/16	Peter Boyd – Steve Robinson	-1032	26,000
45	41/50	Richard Finberg – Mark Lair	-1075	10,000
46	37/40	Simon DeWijs – Ricco van Prooijen	-1128	11,000
47	41/50	Gary Cohler – Harry Tudor	-1212	10,000
48	35/36	James Rosenbloom – Roy Welland	-1540	12,000
49	32/33	Gaylor Kastle – George Steiner	-1554	15,000
50	41/50	Chip Martel – Jan Martel	-1891	10,000

Section Places

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1 st Session	Hamman-Mahmood	Garner-Weinstein	Casen-Pollack
2 nd Session	Courtney-Wigoder	Garner-weinstein	Cheek-Miller

The Cavendish Pairs: Day One

Session 1:

Sometimes you can tell when it is not going to be your day. Two of the pre-tournament favorites (Ron Smith-Billy Cohen were third last year and Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein walked off with the brass ring) were innocent bystanders as their opponents took them to the cleaners.

Bd: 1	♠ K		
Dlr: North	♥ A8		
Vul: None	♦ K10975		
	♣ AKJ93		
♠ QJ		♠ 85	
♥ 1092		♥ J7654	
♦ QJ64		♦ 82	
♣ Q1072		♣ 8654	
	♠ A10976432		
	♥ KQ3		
	♦ A3		
	♣ ---		

Michael Cornell-Lionel Wright sitting N/S bid: 1♦-1♠; 3♣-3♠; 4♠-4NT; 5♣-7♠. The Grand Slam is obviously not a good contract, but the sun was shining and everything in the spade suit was as nice as possible. That was +1510 for the New Zealanders and for Seymon Deutsch-Paul Soloway as well.

When Perry Johnson-Jeff Meckstroth, a pair with a great record in the Cavendish pairs and Teams, took on Ishmael Del'Monte and Jason Hackett, they were confronted with a pair who were not afraid to use the red card (and we're not referring to the one with "Stop" written on it).

Bd: 5	♠ KJ96		
Dlr: North	♥ AK6432		
Vul: N/S	♦ 75		
	♣ 6		
♠ A874		♠ Q1032	
♥ 5		♥ Q1087	
♦ AQJ109		♦ K832	
♣ J87		♣ K	
	♠ 5		
	♥ J9		
	♦ 64		
	♣ AQ1095432		
West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>Del Monte</i>
—	1♥	Pass	3♣
Dbl	Pass	3♠	4♣ (invit.)
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Del'Monte chose to lead the ♥J, which went to the king, and back came a club. Del'Monte found a trump shift, allowing Hackett to win the king and return the jack. Johnson won in hand as he discovered the bad news. He could not now avoid going two down for -300, an excellent result for Del'Monte-Hackett as 4♦ would have been comfortable.

Levin-Weinstein continued their unfortunate start when a Flannery auction misfired here. Playing against Hamman-Zia, this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	2♦	Pass	2♥
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♣
Dbl	4♥	Dbl	All Pass

Hamman led the ♦A and followed it up with the ♦Q, overtaken by Zia to switch to the ♥Q! Now Weinstein was down -800.

Bd: 4	♠ 3		
Dlr: West	♥ Q1053		
Vul: Both	♦ 10863		
	♣ KQ63		
♠ AKQ		♠ J107542	
♥ J9		♥ AK2	
♦ KJ972		♦ 4	
♣ 1097		♣ J42	
	♠ 986		
	♥ 8764		
	♦ AQ5		
	♣ A85		

When Johnson-Meckstroth played this deal Jeff (West) opened a 14-16 notrump and Perry transferred to reach 4♠ from Jeff's side, placing Jason Hackett on lead with the ♣KQ. So it was simple for him to lead a top club and then for the defense to take their four minor-suit winners. It was not so easy to defeat 4♠ with the spade hand the declarer. Typically a heart lead to the nine, ten and ace saw declarer lead a diamond. At at least two tables South ducked the ♦A and regretted it. Against Harry Tudor and Gary Cohler the defense took the ♦A and continued hearts. Either way, declarer was home with ten tricks.

Michael Abecassis took advantage of a defensive slip on Board 8 to bring home a very tough game contract against Simon DeWijs and Ricco van Prooijen. This was Abecassis-Quantin's auction to 4♠.

Bd: 8	♠ K84		
Dlr: West	♥ A9		
Vul: None	♦ AJ		
	♣ KJ9642		
♠ Q106		♠ AJ9752	
♥ J63		♥ K7	
♦ KQ109		♦ 872	
♣ A103		♣ Q5	
	♠ 3		
	♥ Q108542		
	♦ 6543		
	♣ 87		
West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>		<i>Abecassis</i>	
1♦	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

On a club lead Abecassis rose with the ace and drew trumps with the aid of a finesse. Then he led a diamond to the king and ace and back came a sneaky low heart. Michael flew with the king and exited with a low heart. North was forced to win the ace and cash the ♣K, then exit with the ♣J. Abecassis ruffed and ran his trumps, reducing to a show-up squeeze. On the last trump South had to keep his ♥Q and reduce to one diamond, so now Michael could play the queen in the knowledge that the jack would fall from North.

Gaylor Kasle was one of the very few declarers to bring home 6♥ here.

Bd: 9	♠ K8		
Dlr: North	♥ KQJ95		
Vul: E/W	♦ A95		
	♣ AQ7		
♠ QJ109		♠ 76543	
♥ 7432		♥ ---	
♦ J		♦ K87432	
♣ K1063		♣ 54	
	♠ A2		
	♥ A1086		
	♦ Q106		
	♣ J982		

On an unopposed sequence he declared 6♥ as South (better not to ask why!) And received the ♠Q lead. He won the king and drew four rounds of trumps as East pitched a couple of diamonds and a couple of spades. Now Gaylor played ace and a second diamond to the queen and saw the ♠9 discarded on his left after some thought. Since his LHO had started with five red cards and his RHO with six, the odds favored the double finesse in clubs rather than playing for the doubleton king onside—and that's what he did!

Bd: 10	♠ 3		
Dlr: East	♥ Q7652		
Vul: Both	♦ A854		
	♣ 953		
♠ K2		♠ 1084	
♥ 10984		♥ AKJ3	
♦ QJ		♦ 1064	
♣ AK872		♣ QJ10	
	♠ AQJ9765		
	♥ ---		
	♦ K973		
	♣ 64		

The field opened the South hand 4♠ and went quietly one down; +100 for E/W looked completely normal. But Fred Stewart-Kit Woolsey got into the auction when at their table Stewart could open 1♦ as East with his uninspiring 11 count. Over the 3♠ overcall Woolsey bid 3NT and that was that. On a spade lead declarer had six black-suit winners and one heart finesse later he had his game! We have but two word for the unfortunate N/S pair here: "snake bit."

Bd: 15	♠ ---		
Dlr: South	♥ AKJ		
Vul: N/S	♦ Q10432		
	♣ AKJ52		
♠ 109862		♠ KQ	
♥ 984		♥ 10765	
♦ K65		♦ J987	
♣ 64		♣ Q108	
	♠ AJ7543		
	♥ Q32		
	♦ A		
	♣ 973		

This is a tough board to judge for N/S. On a heart lead nine tricks look the limit in notrump. In fact on that very lead Drew Casen-Bill Pollack beat 4NT to continue their good set. But Richie Schwartz-Alan Sontag reached a dubious 6♣ with a heart lead. Sontag (North) won in hand, then unblocked the ♦A and ruffed two diamonds using a heart and a spade ruff as entries. When the ♦K dropped it was easy to lay down the ♣AK and claim when trumps split.



"I'll trade you a Hamman and a Zia for a Mantle and a Koufax."

Bd: 16	♠ AK10532	
Dlr: West	♥ J5	
Vul: E/W	♦ Q5	
	♣ Q64	
♠ 84		♠ Q76
♥ Q		♥ 7643
♦ J9873		♦ AK1042
♣ 87532		♣ K
	♠ J9	
	♥ AK10982	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AJ109	

Sometimes the most innocent of deals produce swings. Guido Ferraro played the normal 4♠ on a top diamonds lead. That looks comfortable enough does it not, just looking at the N/S cards? Eddie Wold led a top diamond, then shifted to the ♣K. Ferraro won and took the spade finesse (wouldn't you?) And Wold won and led a second diamond, forcing Ferraro to ruff in dummy. But now declarer was stuck in dummy. He could only lead hearts or clubs, so now one defender could get a ruff in one suit and give his partner a ruff in the other. Down one—and it's hard to see that declarer did anything wrong. The alternative line of cashing to the ♠AK might fail if trumps are four-one.

Bd: 19	♠ K8	
Dlr: South	♥ Q97	
Vul: E/W	♦ 652	
	♣ KQ932	
♠ 964		♠ J5
♥ J10853		♥ AK4
♦ A108		♦ KJ943
♣ A6		♣ J105
	♠ AQ10732	
	♥ 62	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ 874	

Casen-Pollack were living a charmed life: they were one of the very few pairs to be allowed to make 4♥ here. When South opened a weak 2♠ Casen, as East, reopened with a double and Pollack jumped to game in hearts. Now on the ♠K lead South overtook to shift to a low club. After much thought Pollack followed the logical line of taking an immediate heart finesse, then cashing the ♥K.. Now instead of drawing the last trump he left room for a defensive error by leading a diamond to the ace and taking the diamond finesse. When South won his ♦Q he had two routes to success. Two rounds of spades would let North pitch his diamond. Dummy could ruff and lead a diamond but North would ruff and cash a club. Or South could lead a club himself and let North shift back to spades to let the third spade promote the ♥Q. What South could not do, as he discovered to his regret, was cash a spade and then shift to clubs. The hand was over now

since North no longer had a spade to lead to promote his trump trick.

When two heavy hitters met in Round 8 they traded slam swings, with honors emerging roughly even.

Bd: 22	♠ J1097	
Dlr: East	♥ K3	
Vul: E/W	♦ J9	
	♣ AQJ107	
♠ 6		♠ AK842
♥ AJ865		♥ Q104
♦ 1087632		♦ AKQ54
♣ 6		♣ ---
	♠ Q53	
	♥ 972	
	♦ ---	
	♣ K985432	

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>
—	—	1♣	3♣
Pass	5♣	Dbf	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Both sides were guessing as a result of the preemption; Piotr Gawrys chose to go very quietly rather than look for the sacrifice (which would have been very cheap). Larry Cohen claimed +1370 on the heart finesse. Since some missed the slam, some sacrificed, and some went on to 7♦ the Americans gained a sizeable swing on this deal.

Elsewhere, Adam Wildavsky doubled 6♥ as South on an auction where diamonds had not been bid:

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Morse</i>		<i>Wildavsky</i>
—	—	1♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	Dbf	4♣
4♥	5♣	6♥	Dbf
All Pass			

Dan Morse led a spade, but got in with the ♥K to give his partner a diamond ruff.



"Now here's the plan...Yo, Eddie, pay attention."

On the next hand:

Bd: 23	♠ A63		
Dlr: South	♥ K1082		
Vul: Both	♦ J		
	♣ A10843		
♠ Q98742		♠ KJ105	
♥ 6		♥ 974	
♦ 986		♦ 7542	
♣ KJ5		♣ Q2	
	♠ ---		
	♥ AQJ53		
	♦ AKQ103		
	♣ 976		

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♠	3♠	4♦
Pass	4♠	Dbl	Rdbl (1)
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦ (2)
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

(1) 1st-round control
(2) 2 key cards + good diamonds + ♠ void

Gawrys was prepared to gamble on the trump position; he could be fairly sure he was going to buy good enough diamonds to discard the club losers from dummy. As it was, 7♥ was bid fairly often but this was still a decent pick-up for the Poles.

Session 2:

Bd: 3	♠ J8		
Dlr: South	♥ J8643		
Vul: E/W	♦ A65		
	♣ Q82		
♠ KQ43		♠ 10	
♥ K102		♥ Q97	
♦ J42		♦ KQ1073	
♣ A104		♣ K953	
	♠ A97652		
	♥ A5		
	♦ 98		
	♣ J76		

When South opens a weak 2♠ the normal continuation is for East to reopen with a double and for West to jump to 3NT, since the penalty available from passing is likely to be unsatisfactory. Both Boye Brogeland and Jeff Meckstroth were confronted with this position and on the ♠J lead they made the first critical decision to duck. When a spade was continued they pitched a heart from dummy and the defense did well not to win the ♠A but to let declarer score the trick cheaply. Now the declarers drove

out the ♦A and the defense won the third round to play a heart. Where Paul Chemla was defending against Meckstroth he cashed his two major-suit aces, but Jeff had the rest. Perhaps the best defense here is for Alain Levy to shift to the ♣Q on winning the ♦A—but declarer can still survive if he reads the position correctly.

How often has your partner opened 1♥ and your first bid is to ask your partner for a stop in the suit? It's probably never happened before, but check out the pedantry as regards bids and calls. When Jason Hackett-Ishmael Del'Monte played Billy Miller-Curtis Cheek, the auction went:

Bd: 1	♠ Q932		
Dlr: North	♥ A1064		
Vul: None	♦ AJ4		
	♣ 107		
♠ 65		♠ KJ74	
♥ KQJ9753		♥ 82	
♦ 10953		♦ 6	
♣ ---		♣ AJ8642	
	♠ A108		
	♥ ---		
	♦ KQ872		
	♣ KQ953		

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the context of a four-card major system where 1♥ could have been ♥5432, the 3♥ bid checked for a heart stop. Jason bid 3NT of course and they handled ten tricks when Hackett could bring in the clubs easily enough.

What is the best reason you've heard for taking a practice finesse? Espen Erickson came up with one we hadn't heard before.

Bd: 6	♠ 86		
Dlr: East	♥ Q8742		
Vul: E/W	♦ KJ		
	♣ AJ82		
♠ 10943		♠ J7	
♥ A95		♥ KJ103	
♦ Q754		♦ 1032	
♣ 53		♣ 10764	
	♠ AKQ52		
	♥ 6		
	♦ A986		
	♣ KQ9		

Espen played 3NT on a club lead and as you will have noticed, there are nine cold tricks. Espen won the club and took the diamond finesse! When it held he had ten tricks, so now he ran the spades, revoking on the second one. He corrected it but too late, then cashed his ten winners and gave up the revoke penalty—in this case just one trick. When his opponents asked him why he took the diamond finesse he said, “I had to, in case I was going to revoke!” Sounds right.

Bd: 7	♠ A3	
Dlr: South	♥ A652	
Vul: Both	♦ Q98	
	♣ KJ7642	
♠ J52		♠ KQ96
♥ J9865		♥ 743
♦ K75		♦ A104
♣ 105		♣ A93
	♠ 10874	
	♥ KQ10	
	♦ J632	
	♣ Q8	

Working out how to beat 3NT is far from trivial here. Obviously after a N/S auction such as: Pass-1NT; 2♣-2♦; 2NT-3NT East needs to lead a spade—but that, while necessary, is not sufficient. Both Geoff Hampson and Steve Sanborn declared 3NT on a top spade lead. Hampson won the ♠A and played a club to the queen and a club to the king. At least two defenders (including Steve Robinson against Geoff) won the second club and played a spade to their partner’s jack. But it was not clear to the defense to cash out now, so the ♦AK were not taken and 3NT made.

Casen found a key variation in the defense—he ducked the second club as East against the Sanborns. When Steve played a third club Casen and Pollack both knew the necessity of cashing out; Drew took the top spades to leave his partner on play (just in case declarer was going to misguess diamonds) and Pollack played a diamond for one down.

Bd: 12	♠ AQ42	
Dlr: West	♥ A	
Vul: N/S	♦ 984	
	♣ A10432	
♠ 109		♠ KJ76
♥ K942		♥ 1073
♦ 62		♦ AK1073
♣ KQ976		♣ 8
	♠ 853	
	♥ QJ865	
	♦ QJ5	
	♣ J5	

Hamman and Zia had shown themselves to be a pair capable of being in the right place at the right time—and this deal was no exception. When North opened 2♣ (Precision style) Zia doubled, without much to spare, and Hamman passed. Zia ignored the old rule about leading trumps here, preferring a top diamond, and the defense cashed three rounds of diamonds before shifting to the ♠10. Declarer, Anton Knep, won the ♠A, cashed the ♥A, and exited with a low spade. Zia won the ♠J, cashed the king, and led a third spade which was ruffed low in dummy and overruffed. Knep ruffed Hamman’s ♥K and led a club to dummy’s jack and Hamman’s queen, but when Hamman produced another heart declarer had to ruff in hand and was left with yet another trump loser. That was down three and +800 for Hamman-Zia.

Bd: 14	♠ Q542	
Dlr: East	♥ 2	
Vul: None	♦ 862	
	♣ J9872	
♠ A107		♠ K93
♥ AK6		♥ QJ7
♦ KQ109		♦ A74
♣ AK5		♣ 10643
	♠ J86	
	♥ 1098543	
	♦ J53	
	♣ Q	

Both declarer and defender had a chance for a really nice play here. Michel Abecassis reached 6NT on an uninformative auction and Brad Moss led the ♣9 which, as it happened, gave nothing away. Abecassis won the ♣A, cashed the ♣K, then played a third club and Moss won to play a fourth club as Fred Gitelman pitched hearts. Abecassis threw the ♠10 from hand and cashed three top hearts, letting Gitelman follow, and on these Moss pitched his club winners and a spade. This was the six-card ending:

	♠ Q54	
	♥ ---	
	♦ 862	
	♣ ---	
♠ A7		♠ K93
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ KQ109		♦ A74
♣ ---		♣ ---
	♠ J86	
	♥ ---	
	♦ J53	
	♣ ---	

Abecassis now played the ♠7 to the king and a spade to

his ace, on which Moss dropped the ♠Q! He was trying to look like a man with ♦Jxxx left—but Abecassis refused to finesse in diamonds, preferring to play the suit from the top on the basis that Brad was capable of the false-card. And right he was!

Bd: 18	♠ QJ4		
Dlr: East	♥ K54		
Vul: N/S	♦ AQ		
	♣ AK1032		
♠ A8		♠ K1076532	
♥ Q73		♥ A62	
♦ 109754		♦ J62	
♣ Q94		♣ ---	
	♠ 9		
	♥ J1098		
	♦ K83		
	♣ J8765		

On one of the most challenging deals of the set, the question is whether you can make either 3NT or 5♣ on best defense. 3NT is easy to defeat. On a spade lead the defense can set up their suit while declarer has only eight tricks available (a diamond trick has to be sacrificed in order to reach dummy to take the club finesse necessary to run that suit) while on a diamond lead the same problem is exacerbated by the fact that you create diamond winners for the defense to cash. On a heart lead though (found against both Steve Garner and Michael Courtney) declarer is in with a chance. Against Garner West put up the ♥Q and now it was all about overtricks. Against Courtney the auction had been:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the low heart lead West ducked dummy's jack, but Michael was up to the situation and immediately finessed in clubs! If it lost he would have nine tricks one way or another on a spade or a heart continuation. But when the club finesse won, he unblocked diamonds and had the luxury of a heart finesse for +630.

As for 5♣, strangely enough the problems are much the same as in 3NT, depending on the lead. Berkowitz-Cohen let through 5♣ on a diamond lead. But on a spade lead and continuation the position is more delicate. Jim Krekorian played a club to the king and could not recover. Three entries to dummy are needed to finesse in hearts and clubs, and the threat of a spade overruff forces declarer to overtake the ♦Q to draw trumps at once. But now as long as the defense simply covers the club lead from dummy there are not enough entries to finesse twice in hearts.

Bd: 19	♠ 65		
Dlr: South	♥ KJ93		
Vul: E/W	♦ 9832		
	♣ AK4		
♠ A3		♠ Q1074	
♥ 107642		♥ AQ	
♦ 74		♦ AKQJ10	
♣ Q1076		♣ 82	
	♠ KJ982		
	♥ 85		
	♦ 65		
	♣ J953		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Dbl	1♠
2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Norberto Bocchi struck a keen blow against Chagas-Helgemo when he reached 3NT here. Helgemo avoided the fatal spade lead but Bocchi won the ♥6 lead in hand and did very well to advance the ♣8. The only defense now is to shift to a spade, dislodging dummy's entry. When Chagas continued with hearts declarer repeated the club finesse and claimed. Note that Bocchi's line almost requires a defensive error (if one spade honor is outside he should play spades; if they are both wrong his line fails on best defense). But there's no arguing with success!

Jason Hackett and Ishmael Del'Monte played the last round against Hamman and Zia. On the first of the deals Jason had 8-1/2 playing tricks in his own hand and his partner had a strong opening bid—they collected eight tricks between them!

Bd: 25	♠ A1074		
Dlr: North	♥ 854		
Vul: E/W	♦ A2		
	♣ 10865		
♠ Q96		♠ J832	
♥ ---		♥ AKQJ10963	
♦ K107		♦ 9	
♣ AKJ9432		♣ ---	
	♠ K5		
	♥ 72		
	♦ QJ86543		
	♣ Q7		
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	1♥	3♦
4♣	4♦	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Nobody doubled but the defense otherwise got the most out of the hand. Zia led the ♠K followed by a second spade to the ace, a spade ruff, a diamond to the ace and

a second spade ruff, after which Zia graciously conceded the last eight tricks to Jason's 150 honors. Sporting. (We would have asked how he was going to play it!)

I'm Good—But My Partner Is Even Better

by Sam Leckie, Scotland

The story goes that Steve Wynn only decided to purchase the Desert Inn when he heard that Chagas-Helgemo-Hamman-Zia were playing together in the Dreyfus Cup. "\$270 million is nothing," he said. "If it's good enough for these guys, it's good enough for me."

Joking apart, about the only major decision I make each year is which team to follow in the Dreyfus Cup. This year it was no contest. The stoicism and unflappability of Hamman and Helgemo, playing with the exciting extraverts Zia and Chagas, respectively, would be worth the plane fare alone, not to mention the postmortem discussions. I didn't have to wait long for the fireworks to begin.

we might have a maximum!" In fact, they won 18-12—2 VP's per imp!

Another point I've noticed is that each player seems to revel in his partner's brilliant play or bid. Helgemo's eyes seemed to light up when he described Chagas' play on this hand, whilst Chagas defended his partner's opening bid even when his opponent objected most strongly.

(Chagas)	(Helgemo)
♠ AK82	♠ Q
♥ J5	♥ AQ1098763
♦ AK	♦ 86
♣ AKJ63	♣ Q4
2♣	3♥
3NT	6♥
7♥	

(Helgemo)		(Chagas)	
♠ AK42		♠ 9	
♥ K		♥ 9543	
♦ AJ85		♦ KQ2	
♣ Q754		♣ K10932	
West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

With the ♥K badly placed, this contract went one down. Not a flicker of emotion was shown by either player. "Zia won't be too happy about that," I thought to myself, hardly able to wait for the comparison and to watch the sparks fly. "You chaps are a new partnership and are bound to have a few minor errors like this," said Zia. Minor errors! I couldn't believe my ears.

South led the ♥A and protested that Chagas should have told him that Helgemo could hold a singleton. "I had no idea," replied Chagas, "But I have great sympathy for the bid and indeed would probably have done the same myself." It took Chagas only a second to take the spade switch in dummy and play the other top spade. What should North do holding ace-jack-six in trumps? Not to ruff showed his holding while ruffing gave away a trick. No wonder Helgemo's eyes lit up in admiration.

In another match, after winning by only 3imps, Hamman muttered sarcastically, "We murdered them." Zia buttered it, "Don't be so sure. With the VP scale we're using here

Before play began I asked Gabriel if he has ever played before with Geir. "No," he replied, and then produced his usual broad smile and added, "But that's the way I like it."