

World Bridge Productions
Presents the
C♠**avendish**_{wbp}
Invitational

Bulletin Number 2

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Editor: Rich Colker

Schwartz Leads John Roberts Teams

At the end of Day One, the team captained by Richie Schwartz (Chris Willenken, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian, Tarek Sadek, Waleed El Ahmady) had 128 VPs, just 4 VPs ahead of the second-place Wafik Abdou squad (Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha). In third place, with 111 VP, is Roy Welland's team (Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein). The complete standings and match-by-match results are on p 3. The final three matches will be played today beginning at noon in Estancia DEFG.

Opening Brunch Buffet Alfresco

This year's opening brunch buffet was exceptional—which is really saying something. Not only was the food wonderful, the outdoor setting was nothing short of spectacular. Here are some views of the festivities. (There's more on page 9.)



Don't forget to dress up and show up tonight for the lavish and exquisite Cavendish Pairs cocktail party and auction, beginning at 6:15 in the Grand Ballroom 3/4.

ALERT! – ALERT! – ALERT!

Starting time on Friday will be 10:30 am. The between-session break will be slightly more than one hour. The evening session will end by 8:45 pm.

Conditions of Contest: Expansions and Clarifications

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. Along with the current "prize-pool only" team format there will be no minimum play requirement for individuals; however, teams should make certain that all team members are listed on the entry before play commences. If you have any questions about your own or your opponents' methods, the person to see is Rich Colker.

Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Activity	Location
Thursday, May 11	12:00 PM	3 rd (final) Session, Teams	Estancia DEFG
	6:15 PM	Cocktail Party	Grand Ballroom 3/4
	7:00 PM	Pairs Auction	(Grand Events Center)
Friday, May 12	10:30 PM	1 st Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	TBA	2 nd Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
Saturday, May 13	10:30 AM	WBP Brunch	El Viento
	11:00 AM	WBP Auction	(below Sports Book)
	12:30 PM	3 rd Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	12:30 PM	1 st Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
	7:30 PM	4 th Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
Sunday, May 14	12:00 PM	5 th Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	12:00 PM	3 rd Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
	4:30 PM	Closing Party	

Entrants for the John Roberts Teams 2006

(Unofficial, based on information available at press time. Updates will be published as they become available.)

- 1 **LouAnn O'Rourke**, Mathias Bruun, Peter Fredin, Geoff Hampson, Marc Jacobus, Eric Rodwell
 - 2 **Pierre Zimmermann**, Fulvio Fantoni, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace
 - 3 **Jean-Christophe Quantin**, Marc Bompis, Alain Levy, Herve Mouiel
 - 4 **Seymon Deutsch**, Billy Cohen, Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway
 - 5 **Richie Schwartz**, Waleed ElAhmady, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian, Tarek Sadek, Chris Willenken
 - 6 **Gilad Altshuler**, Piotr Bizon, Piotr Gawrys, Michael Kwiecien
 - 7 **Wafik Abdou**, Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha
 - 8 **Gaylor Kasle**, Grant Baze, David Berkowitz, Sam Lev, Billy Pollack, Jacek Pszczola
 - 9 **Zoltan Nagy**, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Bob Richman
 - 10 **Roy Welland**, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein
 - 11 **Bob Blanchard**, Gary Cohler, Jeff Meckstroth, Howard Weinstein
 - 12 **Lew Stansby**, Boye Brogeland, Ishmael DeMonte, Vincent Demuy, JoAnna Stansby, Gavin Wolpert
 - 13 **Sheila Ekeblad**, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Bob Hamman, Michael Seamon
 - 14 **Michael Cornell**, Chris Compton, Mike Passell, Michael Rosenberg
-
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John Roberts Teams: VP Standings After Day 1 (6 Matches)

(Team Rosters on p. 2)

Team #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Rank
1			7	12	2				30			23	5		79	
2					5		3			10		18	25	30	91	
3	23			19	22			5					18	23	110	
4	18		11				8				21	22		7	87	
5	28	25	8				19	27		21					128	1
6							10	11	3		23	8	0		55	
7		27		22	11	20				15		29			124	2
8			25		3	19			3		15			5	70	
9	0					27		27		0	9	6			69	
10		20			9		15		30				19	18	111	3
11				9		7		15	21			21		0	73	
12	7	12				22	1		24		9				75	
13	25	5	12	8		30				11					91	
14		0	7	23				25		12	30				97	

John Roberts Teams Prize Awards



Place	Players
1 st	\$50,000
2 nd	\$32,500
3 rd	\$22,000
Best 3rd Session (not in top 3)	\$7,500



Gamblers Non-Anonymous

Those players intending to gamble at the Green Valley Ranch during their stay are implored to register at the Total Rewards desk, located in the casino area. It will be in your own best interest and that of the WBP to do so.

Great Bid/Play!

If you make or see a great bid, play or defense we'd like to report it in the Daily Bulletin. Report what happened to the Bulletin Editor (or jot it down and give it to the Editor or a Director). Include the Board # and player names if possible.

Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2006

(Unofficial, based on information available at press time. Updates will be published as they become available.)

Pair #	Pair #
1 Nels Erickson – Marjorie Michelin	13 Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon
2 Marc Jacobus – Lou Ann O'Rourke	14 James Cunningham – Frank Treiber III
3 Jon Kranyak – Ken Kranyak	15 Mike Albert – Gary Zeiger
4 Don Sulgrove – Kathleen Sulgrove	16 Mike Cappelletti Jr. – John Morris
5 Wafik Abdou – Connie Goldberg	17 Bruce Ferguson – Bob Hollman
6 Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn	18 Arno Hobart – George Mittelman
7 Lynn Baker – partner	19 Roger Lord – partner
8 Simon Kantor – Murray Melton	20 David Chechelashvili – David Yang
9 Marinesa Letezia – Carlyn Steiner	21 Rob Crawford – Joe Kivel
10 Joshua Donn – Marshall Miles	22 Jiang Gu – Xiaodong Shi
11 Fared Assemi – Ed Wojewoda	23 Danielle Tessier – Carol Belise
12 Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	24 Fred Hamilton – partner

Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs 2006

(Unofficial, based on information available at press time. Updates will be published as they become available.)

Pair #	Pair #
1 Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	26 Drew Casen – Jim Krekorian
2 Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	27 Vincent Demuy – Gavin Wolpert
3 Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes	28 Jill Levin – Jill Meyers
4 Geoff Hampson – Eric Rodwell	29 Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin
5 Boye Brogeland – Ishmael DelMonte	30 Zia Mahmood – Andrew Robson
6 Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland	31
7 Gary Cohler – Howard Weinstein	32 Franck Multon – Pierre Zimmermann
8 Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	33 Marty Fleisher – Chip Martel
9 Grant Baze – Gaylor Kasle	34 Neil Chambers – John Schermer
10 Richie Schwartz – Chris Willenken	35
11 Piotr Bizon – Michael Kwiecien	36 Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey
12 Michael Elinescu – Entscho Wladow	37 Marc Bompis – Jean-Christophe Quantin
13 Curtis Cheek – Joe Grue	38 David Berkowitz – Billy Pollack
14 Gilad Altschuler – Piotr Gawrys	39 Bob Blanchard – Jeff Meckstroth
15 Waleed ElAhmady – Tarek Sadek	40 Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn
16 Bob Hamman – Justin Lall	41 Ton Bakkeren – Huub Bertens
17 Alex Dubinin – Andrei Gromov	42 Bart Bramley – Barry Rigal
18 Christal Henner-Welland – Michael Kamil	43 Mathias Bruun – Peter Fredin
19 Amos Kaminski – Shaya Levit	44 Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn
20 Steve Landen – Pratap Rajadhyaksha	45
21 George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	46 JoAnna Stansby – Lew Stansby
22 Michael Cornell – Michael Rosenberg	47
23 Peter Lakatos – Gabor Winkler	48 Guido Ferraro – Augustin Medala
24 Chris Compton – Mike Passell	49 Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel
25 Zoltan Nagy – Bob Richman	50 Antonio Sementa – Alfredo Versace

Jim Robison, a frequent participant in Cavendish events, died here in his hometown of Las Vegas, NV, on March 27, 2006, of complications from a stroke he suffered last fall. Jim was 63. A professional bridge and poker player, Jim's bridge titles included the 2004 World Senior Cup (in Istanbul), the 1979 and 1990 North American Swiss Teams, the 1984 Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, the 1985 Open Pairs and the 1998 NABC+ IMP Pairs. Jim also had five second-place finishes in North American events, including the 2005 Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. His masterpoint total of 17,218 placed him 78th on the ACBL all-time masterpoint list.



Jim Robison (1942-2006)

In the obituary published in the ACBL Bulletin Jim's long-time friend Allan Falk was quoted as saying, "Most people know Jim was a first rate cash game and video poker player and an extraordinarily talented bridge player. Fewer are aware that Jim was once on the verge of becoming a professional golfer, after a collegiate career as a leading member of the then-dominant Ohio State University team that included Jack Nicklaus.

"Once you got to know Jim, which not infrequently required a certain level of pachydermatousness, he was amusing, witty, intelligent, charming, a brilliant raconteur, a boon companion, a ferociously competitive partner, and yet he could be vexing, annoying (most often by turning out to be entirely correct about some contrary position) and amusingly insulting. But, achieving what the title character in the classic gangster film 'Little Caesar' never could, Jim could dish it out and take it as well, always with a laugh, whether on himself or someone else. Mike Passell once remarked that if Jim could only learn to bid, he'd easily be the best bridge player in the world, which is a scary thought in a lot of ways.

"Known among his friends as 'Robo' or 'The Robinator,' Jim was fun to be around, at or away from the table, and he had a remarkable talent for bringing out the best in people—usually because they were working extra hard to prove him wrong about something! He will be sorely missed as a player, a friend, and a presence."

Robison is survived by his wife, Carol Pincus, also a world-class player with multiple NABC titles.

The End of an Era

by Sam Leckie

The passing of my dear friend Albert Benjamin (96) earlier this year was a great loss to the bridge community in Scotland. Albert was best known around the world for his convention "Benjamin Two's." He was a Scottish international player and captain, teacher, columnist, and bridge club owner at various times in his life, and was also Scotland's first bridge professional. He always encouraged and helped young players. Ask our two famous exports Michael Rosenberg and Barnet Shenkin and they will confirm that his advice helped them in their early days.

A memorial lunch was held recently in Glasgow and was fully sold out, with over two hundred people attending, many officials traveling from England, Wales, and Ireland to pay their respects. A fitting tribute to a great man.

Albert was also an excellent raconteur with a great sense of humor. He seemed to prefer telling stories about his

spectacular failures than about his great dummy play or defense. Here is one of his favorites.

In a team-of-four match playing with his regular partner, they could not beat a small slam doubled holding KQJ98 of trumps! After a strange bidding sequence the opponents reached 6♥ and Albert, holding an ace and the QJ8 of trumps, doubled. He led his ace which was ruffed by declarer in hand and a low trump was played up to dummy's A104. Now afraid of the overtrick Albert put up his jack. Declarer won, came back to his hand, and led a second trump up to dummy's 104. Albert had seen it all before, and put up his queen which of course was overtaken perforce by his partner's king. After the smoke had cleared Albert said to his partner, "Well, at least my double was right."

The John Roberts Teams: Session One

Match One:

Match one features Roy Welland-Bjorn Fallenius versus Aussies Zolton Nagy-Bob Richman. The fireworks began immediately.

Bd: 1	♠ J543	
Dlr: North	♥ 54	
Vul: None	♦ A3	
	♣ KQJ75	
♠ 986		♠ Q1072
♥ Q		♥ AKJ72
♦ Q1082		♦ J5
♣ A10642		♣ 93
	♠ AK	
	♥ 109863	
	♦ K9764	
	♣ 8	

North, Zolton Nagy, declared 2♣ doubled and scrambled home with eight tricks; +180. But on the very next board N/S returned the favor.

Bd: 2	♠ Q4	
Dlr: East	♥ A4	
Vul: N/S	♦ A94	
	♣ AQ9854	
♠ J1093		♠ K76
♥ 10986		♥ KQ32
♦ KQ752		♦ 63
♣ ---		♣ KJ76
	♠ A852	
	♥ J75	
	♦ J108	
	♣ 1032	

Again N/S played the hand, this time the contract was an ambitious 3NT (doubled of course). This time North only managed seven tricks as E/W scored up +300.

Bd: 3	♠ 6	
Dlr: South	♥ AK73	
Vul: E/W	♦ A1062	
	♣ AQJ4	
♠ 10985		♠ AKQ732
♥ J62		♥ 54
♦ Q843		♦ 975
♣ 103		♣ 65
	♠ J4	
	♥ Q1098	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ K9872	

Richman took the low road in the auction and settled for 4♥. Twelve tricks were easy; +480.

Bd: 5	♠ Q6532		
Dlr: North	♥ 104		
Vul: N/S	♦ KJ9		
	♣ 952		
♠ A7		♠ KJ9	
♥ A9873		♥ K5	
♦ A852		♦ 43	
♣ A8		♣ KQ10764	
	♠ 1084		
	♥ QJ62		
	♦ Q1076		
	♣ J3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Richman</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

1♣ could be as few as two, 1♦ was artificial showing 11+ HCP, and 1♠ showed clubs. Fallenius then embarked on a relay sequence discovering that Welland had 6+ clubs and no side singleton. 3♦ was RKC for clubs and when Welland showed one key card, the ♣Q, and no ♦K Fallenius settled for the small slam. A diamond lead holds declarer to 12 tricks but on Richman's ♥2 lead Welland used his entries to set up dummy's fifth heart, ruffed his third spade in dummy, and drew trumps while retaining the ♦A as an entry to the good fifth heart; +1390.

Bd: 7	♠ AKQ4	
Dlr: South	♥ K1054	
Vul: Both	♦ K	
	♣ AQ75	
♠ 73		♠ 1092
♥ 3		♥ AJ98
♦ J10765		♦ A843
♣ J8643		♣ 92
	♠ J865	
	♥ Q762	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ K10	

Here Nagy-Richman played 3NT from the South side when

Nagy, North, failed to check for a possible four-four major-suit fit. 3NT finished two down on Fallenius' diamond lead but four of either major is no bargain either: 4♥ has three trumps and the ♦A to lose while 4♠ can be set with two heart ruffs.

Bd: 8	♠ A8643		
Dlr: West	♥ J		
Vul: None	♦ AJ93		
	♣ KJ8		
♠ KQ10		♠ J7	
♥ AK65		♥ Q742	
♦ KQ1052		♦ 86	
♣ 10		♣ Q9432	
	♠ 952		
	♥ 10983		
	♦ 74		
	♣ A765		
West	North	East	South
<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Richman</i>
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

With the ♣Q offside 3♠ failed by one trick when 3♥ figured to go down as well. In case the Aussies had any doubts about this not being their day, Board 9 should have settled it.

Bd: 9	♠ Q6		
Dlr: North	♥ A107		
Vul: E/W	♦ AQJ76		
	♣ K83		
♠ 1087		♠ AJ953	
♥ KJ8632		♥ 4	
♦ 10		♦ 5432	
♣ 942		♣ 765	
	♠ K42		
	♥ Q95		
	♦ K98		
	♣ AQJ10		
West	North	East	South
<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Richman</i>
	1♠	1♠	Dbl
2♦	Pass	2♥	Dbl
2♠	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Nagy's 1♠ was strong and Richman's first double showed values. Fallenius described his 2♦ bid as showing either heart length or strength over a natural 1♣ opening but said

it was undiscussed after a strong club. (Welland was clearly on the same wavelength.) Richman's second double was takeout and when Fallenius showed spade support Nagy could not help showing his good diamonds, even though a healthy number was available in 2♠ doubled. Richman had pussyfooted enough and drove to slam after checking on key cards. Although the contract was wrong sided it had play even on Fallenius' lead of a low spade. The legitimate line is to let the lead ride around to the ♠K, run your nine minor-suit winners finishing in hand, and hope East started with the ♥Jx along with the ♠A. If he bares declarer leads his ♥Q pinning the jack while if East bares his ♠A he can be thrown in for an endplay. Alas, nothing was working and 6NT was down one; -50.

The match was a blowout for Welland, who won by a margin of 61 IMPs, 30-0 in VPs.

Match Two:

Our second match features Richie Schwartz-Chris Willenken versus Sam Lev-Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola.

Bd: 10	♠ 63		
Dlr: East	♥ 42		
Vul: Both	♦ Q832		
	♣ AK732		
♠ 98		♠ K107	
♥ J108		♥ AQ7653	
♦ KJ74		♦ A95	
♣ J1064		♣ Q	
	♠ AQJ542		
	♥ K9		
	♦ 106		
	♣ 985		

Pepsi, East, opened 1♥ and Willenken, South, jumped to 2♠ ending the auction. Lev led the ♥J, ducked to the king, and Willenken led a club to the ace to take the spade finesse. He played ace and a third spade to Pepsi's king, and eventually scored an overtrick when the defenders pitched poorly in diamonds; +140.

In Zimmerman versus Stansby, Pierre Zimmerman, South, overcalled JoAnna Stansby's 1♥ opening with 2♠, weak, also ending the auction. Lew led the ♥J to JoAnna's ace and at trick 2 she shifted to the ♣Q to dummy's king. Zimmerman erred by leading a spade to the ace and a second spade to JoAnna's king, setting the stage for a nice defense. On the two spades Lew played his trumps up the line to suggest an entry in the lower outside suit, diamonds, so when JoAnna won the ♠K she was able to underlead her ♦A to Lew's king and the ♣J through dummy allowed JoAnna to ruff out the ace. One down, +100.



Bd: 11	♠ 2		
Dlr: South	♥ KQJ98		
Vul: None	♦ AJ76		
	♣ K106		
♠ KQ985		♠ 1043	
♥ 10		♥ 7653	
♦ KQ1095		♦ 843	
♣ J9		♣ Q53	
	♠ AJ76		
	♥ A42		
	♦ 2		
	♣ A8742		

Schwartz-Willenken bid briskly to 6♥ on the N/S cards after Lev, West, overcalled 1♠ and later doubled Willenken's 4♦ cue-bid. Schwartz captured the ♦Q with the ace and carefully led a club to the ace and a club back toward the king, in case West was ruffing. When both clubs lived he led a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond, and continued to crossruff the pointed suits to score up his slam; +980.

With the club suit behaving even a trump lead cannot beat 6♥. Win the trump in hand, play ace and ruff a diamond with the ♥A, then lead a club to the ten and queen. Now East is helpless. Whatever he returns declarer wins, comes to hand (if necessary) to draw trumps, then runs the clubs taking five trumps in hand, one (or two) diamond ruffs, two pointed-suit aces and four clubs. Nice singleton ♥10!

Michaels Cornell (North) and Rosenberg (South) also bid to 6♥. Cornell won the spade lead with the ace, played ♣A ♣K, then crossruffed diamonds and spades to score all of his trumps separately and land his slam.

Bd: 13	♠ 83		
Dlr: North	♥ K10532		
Vul: Both	♦ 983		
	♣ J43		
♠ 76		♠ AKQJ1042	
♥ A76		♥ 98	
♦ KQ10		♦ AJ54	
♣ Q8652		♣ ---	
	♠ 95		
	♥ QJ4		
	♦ 762		
	♣ AK1097		
West	North	East	South
<i>Lev</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Dbl	5♠	All Pass

Pepsi's 4♣ self splinter at his second turn may not be the only way to reach the excellent 6♠, but it certainly should have been sufficient. Once West cue-bids a non-♦A (surely he holds the ♦Q as well or at most a doubleton) East only needs to hear about the heart control. When West bids 5♥ East should know slam is on, but just in case North's double cast some doubt in East's mind about the quality of West's heart control, a pass would allow West to confirm holding the ace. So why sign off in 5♠? On the ♥Q lead Pepsi claimed twelve tricks for a disappointing +680.

Welland-Fallenius reached 6♠ in an auction that started the same way as the Lev-Pepsi auction but where Welland bid 6♦ (as an offer to play) over Fallenius' 5♥ bid. (Also, there was no double of 5♥.) There was nothing to the play after the ♣A lead.

Bd: 15	♠ 943		
Dlr: South	♥ KQJ3		
Vul: N/S	♦ QJ854		
	♣ 2		
♠ Q1086		♠ AK72	
♥ 98		♥ A7542	
♦ AK		♦ 7	
♣ AK1054		♣ J93	
	♠ J5		
	♥ 106		
	♦ 109632		
	♣ Q876		

After Lev's slightly off-shape 1NT Pepsi bid Stayman, then showed an undisclosed singleton by bidding 3♥ over Lev's 2♠ response. After several cue-bids E/W reached the good 6♠, but that was only half the battle: Lev had to make it. He won the ♥K opening lead with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds, and cashed the clubs from the top hoping to drop the queen. When that failed he conceded one down; -50. Oh well, good bidding is its own reward. Schwartz won the match by a 24-IMP margin, 27-3 in VPs.

Match Three:

The final match of the afternoon features Herve Mouiel-Alain Levy versus Ron Smith-Billy Cohen.

Bd: 19	♠ 75		
Dlr: South	♥ J983		
Vul: E/W	♦ KJ1096		
	♣ 85		
♠ 102		♠ K863	
♥ KQ542		♥ 7	
♦ A72		♦ Q43	
♣ KJ7		♣ AQ962	
	♠ AQJ94		
	♥ A106		
	♦ 85		
	♣ 1043		

Levy, South, opened 1♠ and passed Mouiel's non-forcing 1NT around to Smith, who balanced with 2♥, ending the auction. Mouiel led a spade to Levy's jack, won the diamond return with the king when Smith ducked, and led a second spade to Levy's queen. Levy got out with a second diamond which rode around to the queen and Smith led dummy's lone trump to the king. When he led the ♥2 from hand Levy won the ten and played the ♠A. Smith ruffed high with the queen and led a third round of trumps but the defense scored three trumps, two spades and a diamond for one down; -100.

With 24 HCP between East and West it seems a shame to go down in a partscore when one might just as well go down in a game. Such is the constant philosophy of Waleed El Ahmady and Tarek Sadek, who walked like the Egyptians they are and bid the E/W cards to 3NT (after South, Steve Weinstein, opened 1♠ and North, Bobby Levin, showed long diamonds). El Ahmady received the favorable opening lead of the ♦8 (a spade honor beats 3NT outright) and avoided the trap of ducking it around to his queen and allowing Levin a chance to find the killing spade shift. He rose with the ♦A, led a club to the ace, then a heart to the queen. Next he cashed the ♣KJ and then led a diamond toward the ♦Qx in his hand. Levin could win the ♦K but with the defense's lines of communication severed he eventually had to come to either a second heart or the ♠K to go with his five clubs, two diamonds, and one heart. Nice +600.

and Smith couldn't resist trying 5♣ with his eight clubs and precariously placed ♥K. While the vulnerability is certainly right for a save, everything else about West's hand screams that discretion may well be the better part of valor. Mouiel, recognizing (perhaps not totally) the club wastage in his hand, doubled 5♣ and when the smoke cleared the defense had taken two clubs, a diamond, a spade, and two hearts for +800. It is not clear that N/S would have reached 6♥ (which makes only because of favorable positions in all three side suits), but 800 versus 680 is not a result we like to explain to our teammates.

Bd: 25	♠ A2	
Dlr: North	♥ 986	
Vul: E/W	♦ A764	
	♣ J765	
♠ KQ98764		♠ J
♥ J		♥ KQ10543
♦ 102		♦ KQ93
♣ AK2		♣ 98
	♠ 1053	
	♥ A72	
	♦ J85	
	♣ Q1043	

Bd: 21	♠ K53	
Dlr: North	♥ AQ643	
Vul: N/S	♦ Q86	
	♣ AK	
♠ Q		♠ 108764
♥ K8		♥ J2
♦ K3		♦ J95
♣ J10976532		♣ Q84
	♠ AJ92	
	♥ 10975	
	♦ A10742	
	♣ ---	

Take a look at the West hand and decide what you would do after your partner opened with a weak 2♥ in second seat at unfavorable vulnerability. Ron Smith bid 2♠, forcing, then bid 3♣ over Billy Cohen's 3♦ rebid. Cohen couldn't resist raising to game and now it only remained for Smith to make it. Mouiel led the ♣6 to the queen and ace and Smith tried the ♥J, Levy winning his ace and shifting back to clubs. Smith won the king, ruffed his third club, and now pitched his two diamonds on the ♥KQ and lost only the ♥A and two trump tricks for +620. It sure is easier to defend when you can see all four hands. The French won the match by 5 IMPs, 19-11 in VPs.

Our coverage of the second and third sessions (Matches 4-9) will appear in tomorrow's Bulletin.

Levy splintered with 4♣ in response to Mouiel's 1♥ opening,

