



MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish^{wbp}



Invitational

Bulletin Number 5

Sunday, May 9, 1999

Editor: Rich Colker
Assoc. Editor: Barry Rigal

Levin–Weinstein Lead After First Final Session in the MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs

Robert Levin and Steve Weinstein racked up 553.52 imps including carryover to lead the finals of the MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs after the first final session. A little less than 64 imps behind (that's about the equivalent of a double partscore swing in "real" imps) are Billy Miller and Curtis Cheek, while about 72 imps behind them are the third place pair of Billy Cohen and Ron Smith, who led going into the final. The complete standings can be found on page 3.

Rossano-Vivaldi Lead the Non-qualifying Final

Enza Rossano and Antonio Vivaldi of Italy, reigning World Mixed Pair Champions, are leading at the halfway point of the MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs Non-qualifying Final. Their 1198.23 imps place them approximately 121 imps ahead of second place Fred Gitelman and Brad Moss, who finished third in last year's final. In third place, about 11 imps back, are Krystof Martens and Marek Szymanowski of Poland. The complete standings for the non-qualifying event can be found on page 4.

Jacobus-Clerkin Lead WBP Pairs

Brenda Jacobus and Dennis Clerkin lead after two sessions of the WBP Pairs. Their score of 565.89 places them 120 imps ahead of second place Reese Milner and Disa Cheek. In third place, about 42 imps back, are Kishore Anand and Chassan Menachi. The complete standings are on page 3.

Some Expansions and Clarifications of Conditions of Contest

Systems – General:

- It is our intent to allow methods with which contestants are (or we deem them to be) familiar.
- It is also our intent to allow a reasonable degree of artificiality in auctions where the opening bid has guaranteed considerable extras over opening bid value or where the response guarantees game invitational values or better (23 HCP).

Systems – Some clarifying points in Condition 11:

- 11-a) Swedish and Polish Club systems are permitted.
- 11-d) A gambling 3NT is permitted; 3NT as a preempt in a minor is not permitted.
- 11-l) Transfer opening bids and transfer responses other than to an opening bid of 1NT and 2NT are not permitted. But:
Rubensohl is permitted and transfer responses to an overcall are permitted so long as the transfer guarantees length in the implied suit.
Transfer responses to an opponent's T/O double are permitted if the bid guarantees length in the implied suit.
Transfer responses to an opening 1♣ bid are allowed so long as the partnership has guaranteed game invitational values in HCP.

Cavendish Pairs:

- Carryover from Qualifying to Final:
There will be a 33% carryover from each pair's qualifying score into the final two sessions. To adjust the score to fit a field of 20 qualifying pairs, the raw score resulting from 31 comparisons will be divided by that number of comparisons and then multiplied by 9, the number of comparisons in the finals and this result will then be divided by 3. In no case shall the spread between the highest and lowest qualifying scores be greater than 40 realimps (realimps are the totalimps divided by the number of comparisons) or a total of $40 \times 9 = 360$ adjustedimps. If the leading qualifier has a qualifying score greater than 40 realimps or 360 adjustedimps the lead score will be reduced to the maximum carryover of 40 realimps, with the other qualifying scores being prorated.
- Carryover from the Qualifying into the Secondary Final:
There will be a 20% carryover of each pair's final non-qualifying score. To adjust the score to fit a field of 44 non-qualifying pairs, the raw score resulting from 31 comparisons will be divided by that number of comparisons and then multiplied by 21, the number of comparisons in the secondary final. This product will be divided by 5. It is expected that there will be minus scores carried over. In no event will the lowest score be minus more than 10 realimps or 210 totalimps.
- Format for the Qualifying Rounds:
The field will be seeded solely by auction prices. The field will be arrayed and divided into 8 brackets (ties if any for the bottom of any bracket and the top of the next lower bracket will be broken by chance). All pairs will play four of the seven other pairs in its bracket and five of the eight pairs in each of the other brackets. All pair numbers will be assigned randomly.
- In the Event of a Tie for the Last Qualifying Position:
A tie shall be any group of pairs who have the exact same qualifying score. If tied pairs have played each other, the head-to-head winner of that round(s) of tied pairs will be declared the first tie-breaking winner. If there is no head-to-head winner, the second tie-breaker will be the pair which has won the most rounds. (A winning round is net plusimps on the two boards played.) The third tie-breaker shall be the pair who was plus netimps on the most number of boards.

MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs Standings After 1st Final Session

Rank	IMPs	Pair #	Pair
1	553.52	16	Robert Levin - Steve Weinstein
2	489.68	10	Billy Miller - Curtis Cheek
3	417.74	5	Billy Cohen - Ron Smith
4	399.39	7	Paul Chemla - Christian Mari
5	244.52	18	Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson
6	240.06	8	Harry Tudor - Gary Cohler
7	238.32	11	Mike Passell - Eddie Wold
8	205.39	3	Bart Bramley - Sidney Lazard Sr
9	197.90	17	Shawn Quinn - Mildred Breed
10	174.13	20	Andrea Buratti - Massimo Lanzarotti
11	97.13	2	Joseph Jabon - Aidan Ballantyne
12	90.52	19	Grant Baze - Michael Whitman
13	83.74	14	Gunnar Halberg - William Whittaker
14	74.55	15	Bill Eisenberg - Frederick Hamilton
15	45.65	12	Kerri Sanborn - Stephen Sanborn
16	12.55	4	Paul Lewis - Linda Lewis
17	-134.13	13	Roger Bates - Daniel Mordecai
18	-206.13	6	Adam Wildavsky - Dan Morse
19	-216.71	9	Mike Cornell - Ashley Bach
20	-255.06	1	Alan Sontag - Peter Weichsel

WBP Pair Standings

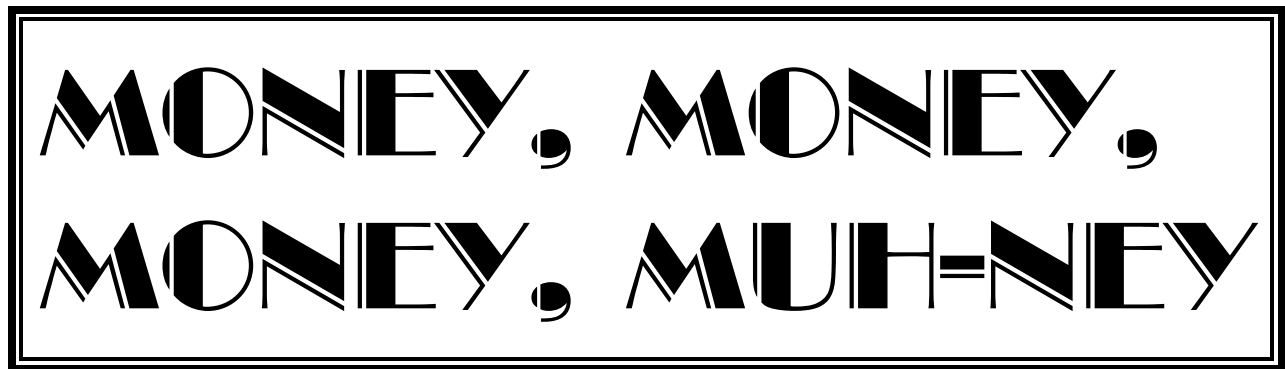
Rank	IMPs	Pair #	Pair
1	565.89	9	Brenda Jacobus - Dennis Clerkin
2	445.89	3	Reese Milner - Disa Cheek
3	404.00	5	Kishore Anand - Chassan Menachi
4	346.00	20	Leonard Ernst - Richard Halperin
5	313.56	7	Dan Jacob - Rob Crawford
6	238.89	1	Gene Freed - Louise Childs
7	191.89	13	Joe Elsbury - Peggy Sutherlin
8	137.00	14	Colby Vernay - Barry Schaffer
9	121.00	8	Mike Lucas - Robert Schwartz
10	120.00	17	Rose Johnson-Meltzer - Jo Morse
11	104.00	11	Kyle Larsen - Dennis Sorensen
12	75.89	21	David Yates - Michael McNamara
13	52.00	6	John Jeffrey - Jeffrey Gargrave
14	-8.89	12	Gerald Sosler - Antonio Sementa
15	-112.89	2	Bruce Ferguson - Charlton Buckley
16	-199.89	4	John Gowdy - William Curtis
17	-228.89	16	Allen Hawkins Jr - Steven Goldberg
18	-377.00	19	Jan Martel - JoAnna Stansby
19	-419.00	10	Lorne Russell - Si Dombu
20	-456.89	22	John Lowenthal - Gail Stanhope
21	-570.56	18	Maurice Friedman - Larry Cohen
22	-812.00	15	John Solodar - Judith Weisman

MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs Non-qualifying Final Standings

Rank	IMPs	Pair #	Pair
1	1198.23	34	Enza Rossano - Antonio Vivaldi
2	976.75	3	Fred Gitelman - Brad Moss
3	965.30	19	Krzysztof Martens - Marek Szymanowski
4	949.04	8	Franco Pietri - Mario Di Maio
5	903.41	15	Perry Johnson - Jeff Meckstroth
6	864.60	27	Andrew Robson - Rita Shugart
7	753.87	4	Hector Camberos - Pablo Lambardi
8	522.88	39	Bjorn Fallenius - Michael Moss
9	491.08	10	Larry Cohen - David Berkowitz
10	346.84	35	John Schermer - Neil Chambers
11	346.50	38	Eric Rodwell - Robin Klar
12	330.85	42	John Mohan - Kay Schulle
13	290.08	41	Zia Mahmood - Gabriel Chagas
14	283.62	1	Lorenzo Lauria - Alfredo Versace
15	261.34	17	Brian Glubok - John Roberts
16	175.00	24	George Mittelman - Henry Mansell
17	143.95	32	Bob Hamman - Nick Nickell
18	64.13	23	Chip Martel - Lew Stansby
19	-66.10	12	Wojciech Kurkowski - Roger Lord
20	-85.94	6	Peter Boyd - Steve Robinson
21	-97.46	13	Robert Blanchard - Piotr Gawrys
22	-131.97	25	Steve Garner - Howard Weinstein
23	-135.72	28	Sam Lev - Barnet Shenkin
24	-136.81	37	Fred Stewart - Kit Woolsey
25	-144.25	26	Mark Lair - John Onstott
26	-311.90	14	Wayne Chu - Tim Cope
27	-357.30	5	Gerhard Schiesser - Roland Rohowsky
28	-382.07	2	Markland Molson - Michel Abecassis
29	-419.65	11	Ishmael Del'Monte - Lionel Wright
30	-483.90	40	Chris Convery - Craig Gower
31	-488.51	30	Gaylor Kasle - George Steiner
32	-492.45	22	Russell Ekeblad - John Sutherland
33	-529.60	29	Ralph Katz - George Jacobs
34	-591.10	33	Richard Schwartz - Marc Jacobus
35	-646.84	21	Fabio Rosati - Amadeo Comella
36	-663.15	43	Amos Kaminski - James Rosenbloom
37	-693.87	44	Espen Erichsen - Boye Brogeland
38	-706.65	20	Drew Casen - Lee Rautenberg
39	-732.30	36	Bobby Wolff - Seymon Deutsch
40	-888.76	31	Chris Compton - Andrzej Zakzewski
41	-899.40	18	Maria Joao Lara - Manuel Capucho
42	-1085.10	16	Sheila Ekeblad - Michael Seamon
43	-1229.56	7	Veronel Lungu - Florin Rometti

Auction Results of the 1999 MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs

Rank		Selling Price	Rank		Selling Price
1	Lorenzo Lauria – Alfredo Versace	\$56,000	34	Ishmael Delmonte – Lionel Wright	\$13,000
2	Andrea Buratti – Massimo Lanzarotti	\$54,000	35	Drew Casen – Lee Rautenberg	\$12,500
3	Paul Chemla – Christian Mari	\$50,000	36/37	Adam Wildavsky – Dan Morse	\$12,000
4	Chip Martel – Lew Stansby	\$48,000	36/37	Grant Baze – Mike Whitman	
5/6	Larry Cohen – David Berkowitz	\$41,000	38	John Mohan – Kay Schulle	\$11,000
5/6	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein		39/64	George Mittelman – Henry Mansell	\$10,000
7	Mike Passell – Eddie Wold	\$36,500	39/64	Harry Tudor – Gary Cohler	
8	Alan Sontag – Peter Weichsel	\$34,000	39/64	Paul Lewis – Linda Lewis	
9/10	Bob Hamman – Nick Nickell	\$33,000	39/64	Chris Convery – Craig Gower	
9/10	Krzysztof Martens – Marek Szymanowski		39/64	Maria Joao Lara – Manuel Capucho	
11/12	Zia Mahmood – Gabriel Chagas	\$31,000	39/64	Wayne Chu – Tim Cope	
11/12	Sam Lev – Barnet Shenkin		39/64	Gunnar Hallberg – Willie Whittaker	
13	Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson	\$30,000	39/64	Mark Molson – Michel Abecassis	
14	Peter Boyd – Steve Robinson	\$28,500	39/64	Shawn Quinn – Mildred Breed	
15/16	Perry Johnson – Jeff Meckstroth	\$28,000	39/64	Veronel Lungu – Florin Rometti	
15/16	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey		39/64	Billy Eisenberg – Fred Hamilton	
17/18	Steve Garner – Howard Weinstein	\$25,000	39/64	Enza Rossano – Antonio Vivaldi	
17/18	Bart Bramley – Sidney Lazard		39/64	Bobby Wolff – Seymon Deutsch	
19	Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss	\$22,000	39/64	Chris Compton – Andrej Zakrezewski	
20/22	John Schermer – Neil Chambers	\$20,000	39/64	Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	
20/22	Bob Blanchard – Piotr Gawrys		39/64	Ralph Katz – George Jacobs	
20/22	Espen Erichsen – Boye Brogeland		39/64	Eric Rodwell – Robin Klar	
23	Russell Ekeblad – John Sutherland	\$19,000	39/64	Amos Kaminski – James Rosenbloom	
24	Billy Cohen – Ron Smith	\$18,000	39/64	Gerhard Schiesser – Roland Rohowsky	
25	Franco Pietri – Mario di Maio	\$17,000	39/64	Paul Soloway – Malcolm Brachman	
26	Gaylor Kastle – George Steiner	\$16,000	39/64	Wojciek Kurkowski – Roger Lord	
27/28	Brian Glubok – John Roberts	\$15,500	39/64	Fabio Rosati – Amedeo Comello	
27/28	Billy Miller – Curtis Cheek		39/64	Michael Cornell – Ashley Bach	
29	Bjorn Fallenius – Mike Moss	\$15,000	39/64	Joe Jabon – Aiden Ballentyne	
30	Roger Bates – Dan Mordecai	\$14,500	39/64	Andrew Robson – Rita Shugart	
31	Hector Camberos – Pablo Lambardi	\$14,000	39/64	Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn	
32/33	Mark Lair – John Onstott	\$13,500			
32/33	Richie Schwartz – Marc Jacobus				
				Total Auction Pool:	\$1,227,000



Auction Results of the 1999 WBP Pairs

Rank		Price	Rank		Price
1	Kyle Larsen – Dennis Sorensen	2,900	12/13	Mike Lucas – Robert Schwartz	1,100
2	Jan Martel – Joanna Stansby	1,700	14/22	Lorne Russell – Si Dombu	1,000
3	Michael Friedman – Larry Cohen	1,600	14/22	Kishore Anand – Ghassan Menachi	1,000
4/5	Dan Jacobs – Rob Crawford	1,500	14/22	David Yates – Michael McNamara	1,000
4/5	Colby Vernay – Barry Schaefer	1,500	14/22	Rose Johnson Meltzer – Jo Morse	1,000
6	John Lowenthal – Gail Stanhope	1,400	14/22	Leonard Ernst – Richard Halperin	1,000
7	Reese Milner – Disa Cheek	1,300	14/22	Charlton Buckley – Bruce Ferguson	1,000
8/11	John Solodar – Judith Weisman	1,200	14/22	Joe Ellsbury – Peggy Sutherlin	1,000
8/11	John Gowdy – Bill Curtis	1,200	14/22	John Jeffrey – Jeff Gargrave	1,000
8/11	Brenda Jacobus – Dennis Clerkin	1,200	14/22	Allen Hawkins – Steven Goldberg	1,000
8/11	Gerald Sosler – Antonio Sementa	1,200	Total Auction Pool:		\$27,900
12/13	Gene Freed – Louise Childs	1,100			

In the  Zone



Are you in the “Zone”? Not just any zone, the MSN Gaming Zone. Join MSN's Lorne Russell at his table outside the playing area (3rd floor Convention Center) where he'll be happy to demonstrate “Bridge on the Zone” and to answer your questions about MSN (but not about how you should have bid or played that hand that cost you 13 imps). He plans to set up shop about an hour before each session and again at session's end. We're delighted to have him here. Your assignment, kids, is to keep him busy. Ask him some questions (he's such a nice, lonely man), tell him some jokes, make him (and MSN) feel needed.

Alert – Kibitzers!

Due to reported problems with kibitzers interfering with the play in neighboring cubicles, we are limiting the number of kibitzers on either side of a screen to two for the remainder of the tournament. We thank you for respecting this new policy.

Oops!

Yesterday's headline reported that “Passell-Lair Lead MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs.” That headline may have been true in some previous year but Mike and Mark were not playing together in this year's event. In fact, Mike Passell and Eddie Wold led at that point. Our apologies to Eddie (and Mark). A mind is a terrible thing to, uh...

Nice Guys Finish...in the Top 20

It's always nice to see Billy Miller. While most bridge players seem to walk around with a perpetual frown on their face, Billy always seems to have a smile on his. So when I saw him walking toward me as I stood outside the playing area, shortly before the start of the first final session of the Cavendish Pairs, I nodded hello and smiled back at him.

"Hi Billy, how did you? Did you qualify?"

"Did we qualify? Wow! What a phenomenal last round we had, coming back from what looked like a certain spot among the non-qualifiers. Let me tell you *how* we qualified. We were plus 102 imps going into the last round. On the first board (Board 25) we had this auction (see diagram below):"

Bd: 25		♠ AJ93	
Vul: E/W		♥ AKJ42	
Dir: North		♦ 873	
		♣ 8	
♠ Q1042		♠ 85	
♥ 98		♥ Q6	
♦ 42		♦ AK96	
♣ KJ965		♣ AQ1042	
		♠ K76	
		♥ 10753	
		♦ QJ105	
		♣ 73	
West	North	East	South
	Miller		Cheek
	1♥	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

"Against 4♥ East led the ♣A. West, who knew a second club would not cash, tried to tell East which suit he had some help in – spades – by playing the ♣K under the ace. East got the message and dutifully switched to the ♠8, but when the smoke had cleared I made ten tricks; plus 420. That was worth a *lot* of imps."

"Then came Board 26. Things didn't look too good when I found myself in 2♥ doubled. As you can see from the hand record, East had the world's fair after West balanced with double. He went for the jugular, and I can't say I blame him."

"Neither do I," I sympathized.

"East led the ♥J and I surveyed my chances with a good deal of pessimism. I finally decided that East was not likely to lead the ♥J from ace-jack length and took my first position by playing low from dummy. When the ace appeared I saw a faint hope of sustaining only moderate damage."

"West returned the ♠9, 2, K, 4 and East continued with the ♠10, dummy's jack winning. I led a third spade to my ace as both opponents followed (if East ruffed it was probably with a natural trump trick anyhow) and played the ♠Q, presenting East with his first problem. He chose to ruff with the ♥10 and I pitched a club from dummy as West produced what looked like an encouraging club. East switched to the ♣J which rode around to my queen. I led the ♥6 to the eight and queen (West's discards were now immaterial) and returned to hand with the ♣A. I ruffed a third club with dummy's ♥5 as East pitched the ♦10 (it does him no good to ruff high) and exited with a diamond to East. He cashed his last diamond but then had to lead to dummy's ♥K7 from his ♥93. That was plus 670."

"Those last two boards added about 650 imps to our total and landed us a spot in the finals, qualifying seventeenth."

"Wow. That was certainly an exciting finish. Good luck in tonight's finals, Billy."

"Thanks. Oh, by the way, did I tell you how I came to be playing in this event with Curtis (Cheek)?"

"No. I didn't think you did."

"I don't know if you remember but last year Joe Jabon and I won the inaugural WBP Pairs. Do you

Bd: 26		♠ AQ62	
Vul: Both		♥ 64	
Dir: East		♦ K543	
		♣ AQ3	
♠ 975		♠ K103	
♥ A		♥ J10983	
♦ 8762		♦ AQ10	
♣ K10862		♣ J9	
		♠ J84	
		♥ KQ752	
		♦ J9	
		♣ 754	
West	North	East	South
	Miller		Cheek
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦ (♥)
Dbl	All Pass		Pass

know Joe?”

“No, I’m sorry to say that I haven’t had the pleasure.”

“Well, Joe is one of the nicest gentlemen and one of my dearest friends in bridge – in addition to being a terrific player. We made a date right after last year’s win to play in this year’s main event, since one of the perks of winning is entry into the Cavendish Pairs. But recently I’ve been playing professionally with Curtis Cheek and an opportunity arose for us to play ‘sponsored’ in this event. Joe learned of this and came to me and offered to release me from my commitment for our date. Now how many bridge players do you know who would do something like that?”

“Not many,” I said.

“I told Joe that I would not leave him without a partner, knowing that it was his fondest ambition to play in the Cavendish Pairs. But I wasn’t sure whether the Cavendish organizers would allow Joe to play with another partner. And frankly, just between you and me, if they hadn’t I would not have played with Curtis and played with Joe, as we originally planned. But the Cavendish people approved Joe’s playing with Aiden Ballentyne. So I’m playing with Curtis and Joe’s playing with Aiden.”

“That’s a great story.”

“It is, but the really great part is that Joe and Aiden also qualified for the finals. And get this, they qualified *seventh!* I’m so proud of Joe that I can’t begin to tell you. I’m truly happier for him than I am for Curtis and myself.”

“I’m heartened just to listen to your story. I understand your concern and I’ll keep this just between you and me (*...and a few of my closest readers*).”

That just goes to show, nice guys don’t finish last – they finish in the top 20!

Man versus Machine

by Sam Lechie

There is no doubt that one of the most interesting hands from the qualifying round is that one which two great card players, Zia and Lazard, Sr., went down in 6♦.

A few years ago at a European Championship I asked the inventor of Goren-in-a-Box (now called G.I.B.) if he would have the computer analyze the best play given certain facts and was amazed at the line it suggested until I realized what it was attempting to do. Let’s look at the deal.

A reasonable auction would be:

♠ —	
♥ Q4	
♦ K1093	
♣ KQ109652	
♠ AK1087632	♠ 54
♥ J	♥ K87652
♦ J	♦ 42
♣ AJ7	♣ 843
♠ QJ9	
♥ A1093	
♦ AQ8765	
♣ —	

West	North	East	South
1♦	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	6♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

The information that the computer must be given is that West holds eight spades and East’s pass of 6♣ makes it almost certain that West has the ♣A too. Not unreasonable assumptions. What the computer attempts to do is to try to find out what West’s missing hearts are. I suggest that the ♠K would be ruffed and a low club ruffed – only three cards to find. The ♥A would now be played and when West follows with the jack, the contract is

made. But suppose West follows low. That’s another card found. (By the way, if West ruffs that is no problem because he has either three clubs and two trumps or vice-versa and neither presents a problem. I’m ignoring an 8-0-1-4 distribution when no one will make it.)

(Continued on page 14.)

MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs: Qualifying Sessions

Second Qualifying Session (cont.):

Bd: 17	♠ QJ7		
Vul: None	♥ AJ8		
Dlr: North	♦ AK3		
	♣ AJ73		
♠ AK84		♠ 32	
♥ 10732		♥ K5	
♦ Q875		♦ 94	
♣ 5		♣ KQ109642	
	♠ 10965		
	♥ Q964		
	♦ J1062		
	♣ 8		

Board 17. This deal produced a fascinating struggle between declarer and defense. By my reckoning the defense just have the edge – but it requires a precise sequence of events after the normal start. On an unopposed Stayman sequence to 3NT you duck the ♣K lead and now East shifts to a spade. Where I was watching, Hampson (West) took the ♠K as Garner unblocked the jack and shifted to a heart. Greco scored his ♥K to revert to a spade and now Hampson has to take his ♠A and play a third spade while the suit is still blocked. When he ducked the spade, Garner needed no second chance. He won the queen, cashed the ♥AJ, the ♦A and the ♣A, and then exited with his low spade. Hampson had to win and give dummy two tricks and the diamond finesse. At another table Chemla found the more challenging

defense at trick 3 of a low diamond. Declarer hopped up with the ace and played a spade honor. Chemla won and exited with another low diamond and I'm not sure whether declarer can make now. In fact he rose with the king and played a third diamond, hoping the heart finesse would work – a swift one down.

For Experts Only: Sam Leckie has been having his fun with the Brazil-Pakistan connection but we know Zia and Chagas are experts: After all, who else but experts could perpetrate the following?

Bd: 17	♠ QJ7		
Vul: None	♥ AJ8		
Dlr: North	♦ AK3		
	♣ AJ73		
♠ AK84		♠ 32	
♥ 10732		♥ K5	
♦ Q875		♦ 94	
♣ 5		♣ KQ109642	
	♠ 10965		
	♥ Q964		
	♦ J1062		
	♣ 8		
West	North	East	South
2♥	3♣	3♠	Zia
4♠	All Pass		Pass

Board 24. Zia was on lead against 4♠ in the position at left. Dummy was likely to have short clubs; best, therefore, to lead a trump. On the ♠2 lead to the four Gabriel could see no reason to give dummy an entry (declarer could be void) so he ducked. So trick 1 went ♠2, 4, 3, 5. Trick 2 went ♠A, Q, J, K! A first...

Third Qualifying Session:

Bd: 1	♠ J85		
Vul: None	♥ A93		
Dlr: North	♦ KQ10		
	♣ 6542		
♠ AK2		♠ 1097643	
♥ K8642		♥ Q	
♦ AJ2		♦ 963	
♣ J9		♣ AQ3	
	♠ Q		
	♥ J1075		
	♦ 8754		
	♣ K1087		

Board 1. Nick Nickell found a good lead here to start his side off well in the third set. The auction by Del Monte-Wright to 4♠ went as follows (see next page):

West	North	East	South
Wright	Hamman	Del Monte	Nickell
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠*	Pass	4♣	All Pass
*Three spades, maximum			

E/W had done well to play 4♠ from the long trump side. After a strong notrump many Wests became declarer and now the ♦K was easy. Nickell hit on the diamond lead to set the hand two tricks but on the club lead, which quite a few Souths found in response to their partner's opening bid, ten tricks roll home. In fact, if declarer puts up the ♣J and leads a low heart from dummy, ducked by North (this is what happened to Zia-Chagas), declarer makes no fewer than twelve tricks!

Bd: 3	♠ —	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ	
Dir: South	♦ AKJ1086	
	♣ KQ1064	
♠ A8754		♠ K10932
♥ K7542		♥ J10983
♦ 32		♦ 94
♣ 2		♣ 5
	♠ QJ6	
	♥ 6	
	♦ Q75	
	♣ AJ9873	

Balancing Acts: Board 3. What is the most expensive balance you've ever made? We've all reopened at the one level and pushed the opponents to game or slam (haven't we?), but it is rarer to reopen after an opening bid and response I think. That was what happened to Gitelman and Brad Moss. After 1♣-2♣ (some "minor" dispute about inverted raises by Bates-Mordecai) Moss reopened and two rounds later his opponents were in their grand slam. The decision cost about 500 cross imps.

Board 7. Rita Shugart and Geoff Hampson at their respective tables both reached 3NT as West after opening 1NT and getting a 2♠ overcall. Both received a low spade lead and when the ♠J scored it was imperative to keep North off lead. So both passed the ♥J and then repeated the heart finesse to make their games. By contrast, Sam Lev led the ♠Q, ducked all around perforce. What now for the defense? Sam found a thoughtful deceptive maneuver: he played the ♠A, then the ♠10, suggesting an entry in the heart suit. If declarer Mark Lair had fallen into the trap he would have been dead. Alas, Lev's partner Barnett Shenkin took the bait first. He pitched the ♥A on the third spade so Lair simply cleared hearts and had nine tricks.

Bd: 7	♠ AQ10754	
Vul: Both	♥ 3	
Dir: South	♦ K3	
	♣ J972	
♠ K63		♠ J8
♥ AK876		♥ J95
♦ 86		♦ AJ952
♣ KQ8		♣ A104
	♠ 92	
	♥ Q1042	
	♦ Q1074	
	♣ 653	

Bd: 8	♠ Q54	
Vul: None	♥ KJ9	
Dir: West	♦ 9762	
	♣ KQ5	
♠ AK		♠ 1087
♥ 107542		♥ AQ8
♦ K		♦ AQ1083
♣ A10732		♣ J9
	♠ J9632	
	♥ 63	
	♦ J54	
	♣ 864	

Board 8. You know fate is on your side when the cards combine to allow the most terrible contract to come home. Look what Smith and Cohen did to hapless Camberos-Lambardi here. On an auction more impressive for its length than its accuracy, they bid to the impressive contract of 6♥. On a top club you need the minor detail of three-two trumps with the ♥K inside. After that, of course, all you require is for the same opponent to have four small diamonds so that the ♦J falls in three rounds and the defender with the long trump has to follow suit four times in diamonds. And so it came pass: just look at those N/S cards! The South Americans conceded 980 and Smith and Cohen's qualifying score went up by 700 imps or so.

Bd: 20	♠ A62
Vul: Both	♥ 76
Dlr: West	♦ A10
	♣ J97652
♠ 8543	♠ Q9
♥ AJ109	♥ KQ842
♦ J62	♦ 9875
♣ A8	♣ 43
	♠ KJ107
	♥ 53
	♦ KQ43
	♣ KQ10

Board 20. Kerri Sanborn found the best spot in what seemed a hopeless game here. On the surface of it, 3NT has no play: The defense is surely going to cash its heart suit sooner rather than later. However, Kerri as South opened a 14-17 notrump and Steve Sanborn raised to game. Willie Whitaker's spade lead picked up the ♠Q for Kerri and now the ♣Q held the trick. With a club trick in the bag Kerri tried a diamond to the ♦10 and when it held she ran home with nine tricks.

Board 23. The old fashioned textbooks lead king from ace-king. One of the newfangled ideas (from merely 30 years ago) is that you lead king from ace-king if you have a side-suit singleton. This deal lets N/S get the maximum against 4♥. North leads the ♦K and shifts to the ♠3. West does the best that he can by playing the ♠Q and concealing the ♠2, following with the ♠5. But South knows to give a spade ruff and gets in with the ♣A for a second ruff. If South takes out insurance by cashing the ♣A before giving the first spade ruff, North should follow with ♣K under the ace – suit preference for spades – to make the message plain.

Bd: 23	♠ 3
Vul: Both	♥ 42
Dlr: South	♦ AK65
	♣ K107632
♠ J952	♠ KQ6
♥ J10983	♥ AKQ5
♦ 3	♦ Q10942
♣ J98	♣ Q
	♠ A10874
	♥ 76
	♦ J87
	♣ A54

Last chance saloon: It is the final round of the pairs, and you need a decent score to make it into the main finals. Your pushover opponents are Berkowitz and Cohen.

Bd: 26	♠ AQ62		
Vul: Both	♥ 64		
Dlr: East	♦ K543		
	♣ AQ3		
♠ 975	♠ K103		
♥ A	♥ J10983		
♦ 8762	♦ AQ10		
♣ K10862	♣ J9		
	♠ J84		
	♥ KQ752		
	♦ J9		
	♣ 754		
West	North	East	South
	Weichsel		Sontag
		1♥	Pass
1NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Board 26 hits the table. If Weichsel had passed, he would have defended 1NT which probably goes two down. After he doubled, Sontag gritted his teeth and passed it out. Had he bid, he would have found it hard to go plus, let alone collect enough of a score. When he passed Cohen ran to 2♣ and on a low diamond Cohen misguessed to put in the ten. (Had he played the queen he would have got out for minus 100.) As it was, Sontag scored his ♦J and returned a diamond. Cohen played a third diamond and Sontag ruffed to lead a trump through. Weichsel could cash two trumps, then his ♦K, and there were still two spade winners to come, for plus 200 and a seat in the big game.

MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs: First Final Session

The deals from the main final started off quietly but soon warmed up.

Bd: 6	♠ QJ9	
Vul: E/E	♥ 8762	
Dlr: East	♦ 8542	
	♣ 87	
♠ 8		♠ 752
♥ AKJ109		♥ Q43
♦ 63		♦ KJ9
♣ KJ1063		♣ AQ52
	♠ AK10643	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AQ107	
	♣ 94	

Board 6 saw N/S find the sacrifice in 4♠ over 4♥, at most tables, but it was not always the case. The datums showed two tables allowed to play 4♠ doubled as N/S (perhaps when East passed initially). Three E/W pairs overshot the mark in clubs or hearts. Note that 5♣ by East can be beaten, but only on an inspired low spade lead by South for the diamond shift. And while one E/W pair collected 100 from a five level sacrifice, four pairs made game as E/W.

Board 7. The next deal was equally spectacular. While E/W can make nine tricks (maybe ten, even on the awkward heart lead) in 3NT, the field played 4♠ and went down on the minor-suit crossruff. In the consolation Zia and Chagas faced an opponent (who shall remain nameless, for reasons which will soon become obvious) who opened 3♣. Zia bid 4♣ and North – trying an Irving Rose strategy – bid 5♣!! Chagas doubled and North ran to 5♦, which was doubled for 1700. This was better than Brogeland-Erichsen managed. Brogeland went to 5♣ on his own as South.

Erichsen pulled to 5♦ which was doubled and set a cool 2300!! In the main event no E/W pair went plus (all pairs going set between one and four tricks).

Bd: 7	♠ A9	
Vul: Both	♥ 652	
Dlr: South	♦ J1098542	
	♣ 6	
♠ KJ832		♠ 765
♥ KQJ87		♥ A9
♦ Q		♦ AK763
♣ KJ		♣ 952
	♠ Q104	
	♥ 1043	
	♦ —	
	♣ AQ108743	

Bd: 8	♠ KQJ854	
Vul: None	♥ 8	
Dlr: West	♦ 4	
	♣ AK1062	
♠ A10976		♠ 2
♥ 1073		♥ KJ62
♦ AKJ85		♦ Q9763
♣ —		♣ J84
	♠ 3	
	♥ AQ954	
	♦ 102	
	♣ Q9753	

Board 8. The very next deal produced yet more fireworks. All the North players on vu-graph overcalled 2♣ over 1♠, carrying the Mike Lawrence theory to extremes that length in the opponents' suit is a good idea. Now at the three tables we watched, we saw the three Souths respond differently. Billy Cohen jumped to 4♠ – a great idea since it forced Smith as North to bid 5♣, which was cold on a spade lead whether West took his ace or not (he did). Chemla and Mari were lucky enough to have an opponent jump to 3♠ with the South cards. North's 3NT deserved all it got (minus 50 on a diamond lead). At the third table South bid only 2♠. This let Bach-Cornell find their diamond fit and save in 5♦ for minus 50.

Bd: 13	♠ AK852	
Vul: Both	♥ 8	
Dlr: North	♦ A54	
	♣ K1092	
♠ QJ6		♠ 1097
♥ 10		♥ AKQ72
♦ Q9876		♦ J2
♣ Q873		♣ J64
	♠ 43	
	♥ J96543	
	♦ K103	
	♣ A5	

Board 13. When you look at this deal, how many pairs would you estimate produced the emetic 2♥ overcall on the East cards? Two of the ten tables in the finals did introduce their hearts and duly went for 1100. Rather amusingly, at the other tables it was South who declared 2♥. On a diamond lead two declarers thought the right way to tackle the trump suit was to lead low from hand not once, but twice. Wrong!! While they could have made the hand still, pitching spades from dummy prevented their establishing the suit and they went one down.

Board 17. Another swing deal saw N/S declare 4♥ at most tables, and after a top diamond lead the paths diverged. Paul Lewis shifted to a spade against Gary Cohler, beating the hand by force. But both Ron Smith and Bobby Levin benefited from a club shift. West could ruff and try the ♠A but declarer was able to draw trumps and pitch a spade on the fourth club for the tenth trick.

Bd: 17	♠ A84	
Vul: None	♥ AK873	
Dlr: North	♦ 10	
	♣ AJ74	
♠ KQJ10		♠ 765
♥ J1062		♥ —
♦ J9854		♦ AK32
♣ —		♣ 1086532
	♠ 932	
	♥ Q954	
	♦ Q76	
	♣ KQ9	

Bd: 23	♠ A3	
Vul: Both	♥ K985	
Dlr: South	♦ J10975	
	♣ Q10	
♠ J7		♠ Q102
♥ 2		♥ 10764
♦ AKQ832		♦ 6
♣ K872		♣ AJ953
	♠ K98654	
	♥ AQJ3	
	♦ 4	
	♣ 64	

Board 23. The penultimate round saw David Berkowitz produce a discovery play. He was doubled in 2♦ when South opened 1♠ and reopened in the balancing seat. On the ♦J lead he won and advanced the ♣8. He knew that North, a fine player, would hop up with the queen from queen-ten to try and prevent declarer running the suit. David claimed that had North followed with the ♣10 he would have finessed on the way back and gone down, but

when Steve Garner rose with the queen he had plus 180.

Board 24. Cherish your partner is the watchword on defense. On this occasion Adam Wildavsky made Dan Morse's life easier. Billy Miller declared 3♠ from the North seat and when Morse led the ♥K, Adam discouraged. That meant it was easy for Morse to find the ♣Q shift and the diamond blockage meant declarer was held to eight tricks when spades failed to behave. As you can see, if North has the ♣Q, the direct club shift may be essential.

Bd: 24	♠ AKJ9853		
Vul: None	♥ 872		
Dlr: West	♦ K		
	♣ 93		
♠ 10		♠ Q42	
♥ AQJ103		♥ K9	
♦ 106		♦ QJ9542	
♣ KJ1085		♣ Q2	
	♠ 76		
	♥ 654		
	♦ A873		
	♣ A764		
West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Schedule

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Sunday, May 9th 318-319	12:00 PM	2nd Final Session, Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	12:00 PM	Non- Qual. Final Session	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	12:00 PM	Final Session, WBP Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center,
	TBA	Vu-Graph	3rd floor Convention Center, 302
	6:00 PM	Awards Ceremony and Closing Cocktail Party	2nd floor Convention Center Vista Ballroom 206-10

MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs Award Pools

Primary

Place	Auction	Players
1st	\$261,240	\$17,408
2nd	167,940	13,056
3rd	111,960	10,880
4th	83,970	9,792
5th	74,640	8,704
6th	65,310	7,616
7th	55,980	6,528
8th	46,650	5,440
9th	37,320	4,352
10th	27,990	3,264
11-20th		2,176 each

Secondary

Place	Auction
1st	\$44,800
2nd	28,800
3rd	19,200
4th	14,400
5th	12,800
6th	11,200
7th	9,600
8th	8,000
9th	6,400
10th	4,800

Session Awards

Qualifying

3rd session: \$10,000 to highest session score among non-qualifiers

Final

2nd session: \$15,000 to best session score for pair not finishing in overalls

\$5,000 to 2nd best

\$2,500 to 3rd best

no session awards in secondary event

Man versus Machine

(Continued from page 8.)

Back to the hand. When West follows with a low heart the computer will now play the $\diamond Q$. When West plays the jack the contract is cold again by overtaking with the king and setting up the clubs with two ruffs as West can only have three clubs. Similarly, if East plays the jack then West's last card is a diamond and the $\clubsuit A$ is coming down in two. If no $\diamond J$ appears declarer's only hope is for West to hold $\clubsuit Ax$ by entering dummy with a trump and ruffing a club. What I find interesting is that the computer would have made the contract at tricks 3 and 4.

I understand why the problem has been sent to that human computer Michael Rosenberg for analysis. Let's hope he agrees with L.I.B. (Leckie-in-the-Box).