

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

Bulletin Number 1

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Editor: Rich Colker
Contributing Editor: Barry Rigal

Welcome to the 30th Annual Cavendish Invitational

World Bridge Productions welcomes you to the 2004 Cavendish Pairs, John Roberts Teams and World Bridge Productions Pairs. This year Bridge Base will once again provide live Internet Vugraph coverage of the Teams and Pairs (at bridgebase.com). The on-site proceedings will once again feature the lovely George Jacobs, the soft-spoken Chris Compton, and whoever else we can coerce into making a fool of themselves.

This year's five-session Cavendish Invitational Pairs features a star-studded fifty-pair field (see page 3) while the three-session John Roberts Teams, in its new prize-only format, anticipates sixteen entrants (see page 2). The three-session WBP Pairs sports its own field of stars (see page 3). A complete schedule for this year's tournament can be found on page 2.



Once again our field is truly international in scope, just as many of our North American tournaments have become. Players are here from all over the world (alas, yes, still no one from Antarctica) including many of the world's top players.

It's good to see so many friends and familiar faces. In the spirit of friendship and good bridge we welcome you to the 2004 Cavendish Invitational. We wish everyone a fun time and a successful experience. We're back at the Rio (as we were in 2002), so enjoy the hotel, the casino, Las Vegas and good bridge to all!

— Bob Hamman, Robert Blanchard, Bill Rosenbaum and Roy Welland

Goodbye, Dear Friends

It is with great sadness that we note the passing since last year's event of three frequent and enthusiastic Cavendish participants: George Steiner and Lionel Wright, both of the

U.S., and Elyiakim Shofel, of Israel. Our condolences to their families and friends. They will be greatly missed.

Gamblers Non-Anonymous

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

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 Barry Rigal.

Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Activity	Location
Wednesday, May 5	11:30 AM	Opening Brunch Banquet	Pavilion 6
	1:00 PM	1 st Session, Teams	Pavilion 9
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, Teams	Pavilion 9
Thursday, May 6	12:00 PM	3 rd (final) Session, Teams	Pavilion 9
	6:15 PM	Cocktail Party	Pavilion 3 & 4
	7:00 PM	Pairs Auction	Pavilion 3 & 4
Friday, May 7	12:30 PM	1 st Session, Pairs	Pavilion 9
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, Pairs	Pavilion 9
Saturday, May 8	10:30 AM	WBP Brunch	Pavilion 10 & 11
	11:00 AM	WBP Auction	Pavilion 10 & 11
	12:30 PM	3 rd Session, Pairs	Pavilion 9
	12:30 PM	1 st Session, WBP Pairs	Pavilion 8
	7:30 PM	4 th Session, Pairs	Pavilion 9
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, WBP Pairs	Pavilion 8
Sunday, May 9	12:00 PM	5 th Session, Pairs	Pavilion 9
	12:00 PM	3 rd Session, WBP Pairs	Pavilion 8
	4:30 PM	Closing Party	Brasilia 1 & 2 (or outside)

Entrants for the John Roberts Teams 2004

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

- 1 **George Jacobs**, Steve Garner, Ralph Katz, Michael Rosenberg, Howard Weinstein
- 2 **Perry Johnson**, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell
- 3 **Seymon Deutsch**, Cezary Balicki, Billy Cohen, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway, Adam Zmudzinsky
- 4 **Rose Meltzer**, Kyle Larsen, Chip Martel, Alan Sontag, Lew Stansby, Peter Weichsel
- 5 **Juan Ventin** (NPC), Grant Baze, Andrea Buratti, Gaylor Kasle, Massimo Lanzarotti, Fred Stewart, Kit Woolsey
- 6 **Pierre Zimmermann**, Alain Levy, Herve Mouiel, Frank Multon, Jean-Christophe Quantin, Pierre Saporta
- 7 **Gene Freed**, Ross Grabel, Chris Larsen, Jon Wittes
- 8 **LouAnn O'Rourke**, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Peter Fredin, Marc Jacobus, Magnus Lindkvist
- 9 **Hansa Narasimhan**, Roger Bates, Peter Bertheau, Billy Miller, Fredrik Nystrom
- 10 **Malcolm Brachman**, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold
- 11 **Roy Welland**, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein, Crystal Henner-Welland, Michael Kamil
- 12 **Sam Lev**, Piotr Gawrys, Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Jacek Pszczola
- 13 **Charles Wigoder**, Michael Cornell, Gunnar Halberg, Richard Jedrychowski
- 14 **Russ Ekeblad**, Sheila Ekeblad, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Ron Rubin, Michael Seamon
- 15 **Drew Casen**, Larry Cohen, Andrei Gromov, Aleksander Petrunin
- 16 TBA

Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2004

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

Pair #		Pair #	
1	Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	14	Simon Kantor – Murray Melson
2	Marc Jacobus – LouAnn O'Rourke	15	Harold Feldheim – Jim Murphy
3	Russ Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	16	Jeff Miller – Bill Wickham
4	Leo Bell – Marshall Miles	17	Leonard Ernst – Mike Shuman
5	Kyle Larsen – Hansa Narasimhan	18	Mike Cappelletti, Jr. – Doug Levene
6	Rob Crawford – Dan Jacob	19	Kamel Fergami – Nicolas L'Ecuyer
7	Leszek Rabiega – Edward Wojewoda	20	Fred Hamilton – Jan Vangemert
8	Karen Cooper – Steve Cooper	21	Waldemer Frukacz – Jaroslaw Piasecki
9	Ishmael Del'Monte – David Stern	22	Arno Hobart – George Mittelman
10	Frank Cymerman – Ken Kranyak	23	Wafik Abdou – Connie Goldberg
11	Lenny Holtz – Toby Sokolow	24	Terri Casen – Larry Cohen
12	Renee Mancuso – Haig Tchamitch	25	Alan Cokin – Harold Lilie
13	Bob Hollman – Shawn Quinn	26	Aiden Ballantyne – Derrell Childs

Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs 2004

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

Pair #		Pair #	
1	Bob Hamman – Zia Mahmood	26	Gary Cohler – Richie Schwartz
2	Norberto Bocchi – Giorgio DuBoin	27	Peter Fredin – Magnus Lindkvist
3	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	28	Amos Kaminsky – Shaya Levit
4	Paul Chemla – Guido Ferraro	29	Brian Glubok – Aaron Silverstein
5	Steve Garner – Howard Weinstein	30	Bart Bramley – Chris Compton
6	Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	31	Pierre Saporta – Pierre Zimmermann
7	Ross Grabel – Jon Wittes	32	George Jacobs – Ralph Katz
8	Peter Bertheau – Fredrik Nystrom	33	Doug Doub – Adam Wildavsky
9	Gilad Altschuler – David Birman	34	Robert Blanchard – Piotr Gawrys
10	Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	35	Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes
11	Mike Cornell – Richard Jedrychowski	36	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey
12	Joe Grue – Mike Moss	37	Marty Fleisher – Chip Martel
13	Rose Meltzer – Peter Weichsel	38	Linda Lewis – Paul Lewis
14	Garey Hayden – Mike Passell	39	Dennis Dawson – Eric Rodwell
15	Andrea Buratti – Massimo Lanzarotti	40	Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin
16	Billy Cohen – Ron Smith	41	Russ Samuel – Shawn Samuel
17	Andrei Gromov – Aleksander Petrunin	42	Drew Casen – Gaylor Kasle
18	Grant Baze – Mike Whitman	43	Frank Multon – Jean-Christophe Quantin
19	Gunnar Halberg – Charles Wigoder	44	Gene Freed – Chris Larsen
20	Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel	45	Barnet Shenkin – Harry Tudor
21	Bill Passell – Aubry Strul	46	Perry Johnson – Jeff Meckstroth
22	JoAnna Stansby – Lew Stansby	47	Barry Goren – Michael Rosenberg
23	Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland	48	Billy Miller – Eddie Wold
24	Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson	49	Walid Elahmady – Tarek Sadek
25	Cezary Balicki – Adam Zmudzinski	50	Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss

Last Year's Cavendish

(Adapted from articles by Barry Rigal)

The Teams—Match One:

The first set saw two nearly impossible defenses, one for each pair. Unfortunately, neither of the pairs at the table we watched found this brilliancy; in fact, no one in the room (to the best of our knowledge) managed either defense.

Bd: 7	♠ AK8		
Dlr: South	♥ A875		
Vul: Both	♦ 93		
	♣ 7632		
♠ Q765		♠ 1043	
♥ K3		♥ QJ1096	
♦ Q1082		♦ 7	
♣ 1095		♣ KJ84	
	♠ J92		
	♥ 42		
	♦ AKJ654		
	♣ AQ		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			1♦
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) Game force, might be balanced

Reaching 3NT was fairly easy, and Levy found the ♥Q lead, overtaken by the king. Fantoni ducked, won the next heart as Levy followed low, then led a diamond to the jack and queen. Mouiel returned the ♠7 and Fantoni naturally hopped up with the ace, then discovered the very bad news in diamonds. He cleared the diamonds, then had to guess which black-suit finesse to take. But with both critical cards sitting right he could not go wrong. The winning defense is really difficult to find, particularly on this auction. Mouiel has to shift to a club at trick two, and now the defense has the tempo to set up two club tricks to go with their two diamonds and one heart.



The next deal saw Fantoni with the problem:

Bd: 8	♠ AJ864		
Dlr: West	♥ KJ62		
Vul: None	♦ QJ4		
	♣ A		
♠ Q1032		♠ K5	
♥ Q		♥ A107	
♦ K1062		♦ 8	
♣ J985		♣ KQ107642	
	♠ 97		
	♥ 98543		
	♦ A9753		
	♣ 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1♠	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The French did well to get to the notrump game since 5♣ is off three cashing tricks. Fantoni led the ♦Q and Mouiel won his king as Nunes signaled encouragement. Mouiel then drove out the ♣A and when Fantoni continued with jack and a third diamond declarer claimed nine tricks. The winning defense is for Fantoni to lead a low diamond to the ace at trick three and for Nunes to then shift to a heart. How would Nunes know to shift? Well, it's not 100 percent but if Fantoni had good diamonds he would cash the ♠A before leading the ♦4, setting up declarer's ninth trick (dummy's ♠K to go with his six clubs, ♦K and ♥A) to force South to return a diamond as the only way to beat the contract, thus removing any losing options for the defense. This was worth a game swing for the French but the Brachman team won the match comfortably nonetheless.

Match Two:

Bd: 12	♠ K2		
Dlr: West	♥ KQ95		
Vul: N/S	♦ 765		
	♣ K743		
♠ AQ8643		♠ 975	
♥ A1074		♥ J63	
♦ J		♦ KQ82	
♣ Q10		♣ A96	
	♠ J10		
	♥ 82		
	♦ A10943		
	♣ J852		

There were two nice plays to report on Board 12, both in defense of 4♠.

Where Fallenius-Welland were defending 4♠, Fallenius led the ♠K. When Welland discouraged from his doubleton declarer saw no reason to hurry to draw trumps; instead, he tried the ♦J. Welland took his ace and returned to hearts to get his ruff, with the ♠K still to come for down one.

Where Bertheau-Nystrom defended 4♠, Bertheau led a diamond to his partner's ace. Nystrom returned a systemic ♠2 (consistent with honor-fourth or small doubleton) and Bertheau took the king to shift to a club. Can you blame declarer for flying with the ace, then cashing two diamonds to pitch a heart and club? From that point on he had to lose a spade and a heart for down one.

Bd: 13	♠ 1064		
Dlr: North	♥ Q1082		
Vul: Both	♦ 84		
	♣ K1074		
♠ 532		♠ AK87	
♥ AJ9643		♥ K75	
♦ KJ2		♦ A9765	
♣ 2		♣ J	
	♠ QJ9		
	♥ ---		
	♦ Q103		
	♣ AQ98653		
West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
	Pass	1♦	4♣
4♥	5♣	5♥	All Pass

Billy Cohen's boost to 4♣ forced Levin to commit to 4♥, and when Ron Smith raised the ante one more time it was tough for Weinstein to defend (and collect +500) rather than try for 5♥. On the ♣4 lead to the ace Cohen took his time before switching to the ♠J (the ruff and discard could be fatal on a different day). Levin took the ♠K, led a heart to the ace, then played on diamonds to find a home for his spade loser. The bad news for Levin-Weinstein was that all routes led to one down; the good news for them was that they won 5 imps on the deal when Balicki-Zmudzinski played in 6♥ down three at the other table.



Bart Bramley brought home one of the most unlikely games of the millennium on this deal.

Bd: 15	♠ Q9542		
Dlr: South	♥ Q		
Vul: N/S	♦ A852		
	♣ 1073		
♠ J6		♠ K87	
♥ 107		♥ AJ9543	
♦ K74		♦ J96	
♣ KQJ984		♣ A	
	♠ A103		
	♥ K862		
	♦ Q103		
	♣ 652		
West	North	East	South
<i>Lazard</i>	<i>M. Moss</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Grue</i>
			Pass
1♣(!)	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

How many undertricks would you settle for here? On a diamond lead to the ace, best defense of a diamond back might hold declarer to just six or seven tricks. But Moss played back a club, perhaps trying to cut the communications in clubs. Bramley took his ace and realized that the shortage of entries to dummy meant that he would not be able to play both spades and hearts from the board. His legitimate chance was to play to drop a bare heart honor (or find the king-queen doubleton). So he advanced the ♥A at trick three and his prayers were answered. When he next led a low heart towards the ten, South had several options—all of them losing ones. If he took his king a passive exit or the ♠A would clearly be hopeless. His one active shift, the ♦Q, would kill dummy but let declarer throw two spades away on the top clubs and a third on the fourth round of clubs. That ruff would be the defense's last trick. Alternatively, if South ducked the ♥10 declarer would cash two clubs to pitch spades and lead a fourth club to pitch his last spade. Then he could go to the ♦K to pitch his last diamond on the fifth club, so all routes led to ten tricks. Incidentally, at the other table Bart's teammates defended 3♥ and led a trump at trick one. Locked in his hand, declarer scored his five heart tricks and the ♠A—for down three!



Bd: 17	♠ KQ5		
Dlr: North	♥ J752		
Vul: None	♦ 9853		
	♣ 43		
♠ A109643		♠ J2	
♥ AK9		♥ Q10643	
♦ 72		♦ K6	
♣ A8		♣ KQ76	
	♠ 87		
	♥ 8		
	♦ AQJ104		
	♣ J10952		
West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) Game forcing			

Levin-Weinstein reached the only game that had chances, but ran into a nice defense. On the ♣J lead Weinstein took the straightforward line of winning in hand and playing the ♠J to the queen. Back came a diamond to the king and ace and Cohen played two more rounds of the suit to force Weinstein to ruff in hand. Now Weinstein could cash the ♥AK, unblock the ♣A and draw two more rounds of trumps, but with the ♠K guarded offside and the clubs guarded on his left he had to go down a trick. But this was a flat board since 4♥ also went down at the other table on a less inspired line of play.

Bd: 18	♠ 7532		
Dlr: East	♥ A		
Vul: N/S	♦ 65		
	♣ KQJ1062		
♠ K4		♠ Q6	
♥ K87		♥ QJ643	
♦ AKJ82		♦ Q10973	
♣ 973		♣ 8	
	♠ AJ1098		
	♥ 10952		
	♦ 4		
	♣ A54		
West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦(2)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Transfer to hearts			
(2) Invitational			

The Levin-Weinstein auction blew their opponents out of the water on a hand on which N/S were cold for eleven tricks in spades. Smith held the damage by beating 4♥: He led the ♣K and continued the suit to set up a force, eventually collecting the three aces and a trump trick. At the other table Balicki-Zmudzinski bid to 5♦ and lost their three aces for a slightly fortunate flat board for Deutsch.

Match Three:

Bd: 22	♠ A109652		
Dlr: East	♥ K1083		
Vul: E/W	♦ ---		
	♣ 1075		
♠ J8		♠ 43	
♥ AQ74		♥ J652	
♦ AKQ765		♦ J3	
♣ A		♣ KJ962	
	♠ KQ7		
	♥ 9		
	♦ 109842		
	♣ Q843		
West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Zia</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	2♠	Pass	4♠
Dbl	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Zia had brought his red cards for use in this match and he was able to generate a couple of nice swings here. His jump to 4♠ encouraged Moss to double (for takeout) and although 5♣ might have escaped unscathed, Zia doubled 5♦, secure in the knowledge that his partner had to have the hearts over Moss. That was a quick 500.

A couple of boards later it was Joe Grue's turn to feel the wrath of Zia's red cards.

Bd: 24	♠ 87		
Dlr: West	♥ KQ942		
Vul: None	♦ AQ53		
	♣ 104		
♠ J62		♠ 543	
♥ J865		♥ A73	
♦ K84		♦ J7	
♣ J97		♣ AKQ82	
	♠ AKQ109		
	♥ 10		
	♦ 10962		
	♣ 653		

West	North	East	South
Moss	Hamman	Grue	Zia
Pass	1♥	1NT	Dbl
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Grue's 1NT overcall looked safe enough, but Zia's double persuaded him to retreat to the safety of 2♣—after all, who would be able to double that? Zia corrected him on that account and led the ♥10—anyone could lead out the top spades. He had a bad moment at trick one, and when declarer turned up with five solid clubs he was even less happy. But all was well when declarer was held to his six top tricks; +300 for the Mad Doubler.

Bd: 25	♠ QJ109		
Dlr: North	♥ 43		
Vul: E/W	♦ 10872		
	♣ Q95		
♠ A76		♠ 5	
♥ A6		♥ KJ10852	
♦ K43		♦ A6	
♣ A10762		♣ KJ83	
	♠ K8432		
	♥ Q97		
	♦ QJ95		
	♣ 4		

Playing against George Jacobs (South) and Ralph Katz (North), Cezary Balicki (West) and Adam Zmudzinski (East) reached 7♣ on the auction: 1♥-2♣; 2♥-2NT(GF); 3♣-3♥; 3♣-(Dbl)-Rdbl; 4♣-4♦; 4NT-5♦(3 KCs); 5♣-5NT(no ♣Q); 6♥-7♣. Having arrived in such an ambitious contract Balicki then proceeded to draw a very fine inference to make it. Zmudzinski had shown six hearts and three or four clubs in the auction, so when Zmudzinski was prepared to look for a Grand, Balicki hoped dummy would produce the ♣Q—or at the very least the ♣J. When Katz led the ♠Q Balicki decided that Jacobs figured to have some spade length but had not overcalled. Given the vulnerability (and the possibility that South might have a diamond honor) it looked reasonable to assume that North had the ♣Q. So Balicki won the spade lead, cashed the ♣A and led a club to the jack to score up his vulnerable Grand. Easy game!



Match Four:

Peter Fredin has already established a name for himself as the Wizard of Odd. He was able to bolster this reputation somewhat on the first deal of the session.

Bd: 1	♠ AQ98		
Dlr: North	♥ J76		
Vul: None	♦ J10		
	♣ 10976		
♠ J107		♠ 542	
♥ AKQ1093		♥ 8542	
♦ Q85		♦ K43	
♣ 2		♣ 843	
	♠ K63		
	♥ ---		
	♦ A9762		
	♣ AKQJ5		

The field was pretty much split between those able to reach 6♣ and those stuck in 5♣. However, Fredin introduced a spectacular diversion. Against two unnamed opponents (well, okay, think "Tournament Organizers") the auction, believe it or not, went as follows:

West	North	East	South
Fredin		Lindkvist	
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1NT(!)	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass(!)	Pass	Pass	

Fredin not only overcalled 1NT, he sat it out when doubled. This is set to go four down without too many problems, right? Not so. North led the ♦J and South knew his partner had a Yarborough, but declarer seemed to have no tricks. So he ducked and declarer cashed out for +180. We're told the air turned blue. Fredin's teammates reached 6♣ so this was a very handy 15-imp swing.

Bd: 4	♠ 98632		
Dlr: West	♥ 10		
Vul: Both	♦ A7		
	♣ K10632		
♠ AJ		♠ 54	
♥ J8763		♥ KQ52	
♦ J62		♦ KQ104	
♣ AJ4		♣ Q97	
	♠ KQ107		
	♥ A94		
	♦ 9853		
	♣ 85		

How good are your opening leads? Most Norths got to test their skills after the opponents' uninterrupted auction: 1♥-2♦; 2♥-4♥ or 1♥-2NT(Jacoby); 4♥. After hearing the first auction

we expected Garozzo to lead an attacking club. But no, he led a spade and now declarer had no chance to avoid four top losers. On the “expected” club lead (which was found at many tables) declarer wins in hand and leads a heart. The defense can set up their club or a spade but not both, and declarer can shake his other black-suit loser on a diamond after drawing trumps.

Bd: 8	♠ 943		
Dlr: West	♥ J104		
Vul: None	♦ Q1052		
	♣ Q109		
♠ AQJ105		♠ K876	
♥ ---		♥ Q32	
♦ A643		♦ 87	
♣ J862		♣ K743	
	♠ 2		
	♥ AK98765		
	♦ KJ9		
	♣ A5		

4♠ by West is a fascinating spot (yes, 5♥ by N/S might be equally fascinating). On a trump lead you win in dummy and lead a diamond. South puts up the king, which you allow to hold, and tries to cash the ♥K. Contrast what happened next at two tables. At the first table, the (unnamed) declarer ruffed the heart, played ♦A and ruffed a diamond, crossed to a trump and ruffed another diamond. Now he led a club and put in the eight. North won and played a second heart. Declarer ruffed and ducked a second club to the now bare ace. But a third heart tapped declarer out in both hands and trick thirteen was won by Garozzo’s ♠9.

Eric Rodwell declared 4♠ doubled on the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>			
1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

He also scored the ♠6 at trick one, ducked the ♦K, ruffed a heart in hand and then played ♦A and ruffed a diamond. But next he ducked a club to North. If North returns a trump now declarer is in control: He ruffs a diamond and then ducks a second club; if North plays a second heart declarer ruffs and ducks a club, then ruffs a third heart, cashes his high trump, then crosses to the ♣K to draw the last trump and takes trick thirteen with a long club. So that was +590.



Match Five:

Eric Greco (as South) reached a delicate 3NT contract on the following deal.

Bd: 11	♠ Q8		
Dlr: South	♥ A854		
Vul: None	♦ 103		
	♣ J9754		
♠ K10965		♠ 73	
♥ 107		♥ K962	
♦ 965		♦ A842	
♣ 1062		♣ AQ8	
	♠ AJ42		
	♥ QJ3		
	♦ KQJ7		
	♣ K3		
West	North	East	South
	<i>Hampson</i>		<i>Greco</i>
			1♣(1)
Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Strong, artificial			
(2) Negative			

The strong club auction was unrevealing and Greco was treated to a low club lead. The defense took the ♣A and shifted to a spade, Greco ducking to the nine and queen. Now he played a low heart to the queen and divined that the suit split four-two. So he knocked out the ♦A, won the club return and was now able to cash all of his diamonds and the ♠A, reducing East to four cards: ♣Q ♥K96. Greco then led the ♥J, pinning the ten, and ducked it around to East. He could win and cash a club, but then he had to lead into the heart tenace to concede nine tricks.

Bd: 15	♠ AK2		
Dlr: South	♥ A43		
Vul: N/S	♦ J109		
	♣ KJ65		
♠ J76		♠ 10985	
♥ K98		♥ J107	
♦ Q7643		♦ K82	
♣ 92		♣ A108	
	♠ Q43		
	♥ Q652		
	♦ A5		
	♣ Q743		

At most tables N/S reached 3NT after a strong notrump and Stayman. East typically led the ♠10 and declarer won in hand and drove out the ♣A. Now it was up to East to find the shift. With declarer apparently having the ♣KJ and ♠AK, he

was marked with a top heart honor for his strong notrump. Unless he is exactly 3=2=4=4 he is quite likely to be able to set up the thirteenth heart if East gives him time. The defense can get the thirteenth spade, together with a club and two hearts but no more. Does that mean that East can legitimately find the diamond shift? Maybe only with the sight of all fifty-two cards.

Chip Martel as East avoided the problem by ducking the second club. Now if declarer had played a third club Stansby could have played an encouraging diamond, so declarer changed his attention to hearts, leading low to dummy's queen and king. Stansby went back to spades, and that set up the defense's fifth winner before declarer had his nine, since Martel could win either the heart or club to lead a diamond through in good time.

Match Six:

Bd: 19	♠ KQ972		
Dlr: South	♥ 9543		
Vul: E/W	♦ A		
	♣ K102		
♠ 4		♠ 103	
♥ AQJ762		♥ K10	
♦ K10		♦ QJ9875	
♣ J975		♣ AQ6	
	♠ AJ865		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 6432		
	♣ 843		
West	North	East	South
Lazard	Weinstein	Bramley	Levin
			Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

Here's a cute hand reported to us by Bart Bramley. Against Weinstein's 4♠ contract, Bramley led the ♥K. Lazard made the correct play of overtaking with the ace, but now he was at the crossroads. While the ♦K shift is seductive looking at dummy, watch what happens. Declarer wins the ace and sets about on a crossruff. He ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond, and then ruffs another heart as East pitches a diamond. Another diamond ruff is followed by another heart and East is finds himself in a bit of a pickle in the following position:



	♠ KQ9		
	♥ 9		
	♦ ---		
	♣ K102		
♠ 4		♠ 103	
♥ QJ		♥ ---	
♦ ---		♦ QJ	
♣ J975		♣ AQ6	
	♠ AJ8		
	♥ ---		
	♦ 6		
	♣ 843		

If East pitches a club declarer can prevail by ducking two clubs to East. If East ruffs declarer can overruff, draw the two outstanding trumps with the ace, then exit with dummy's last diamond while pitching a club from his hand endplaying East. And finally, if East pitches another diamond declarer simply ruffs dummy's last diamond, draws trumps ending in dummy and plays a club, covering West's card and endplaying East. So East is squeezed in three suits—one of them trumps!

Did you find the way to defeat 4♠ at trick two? West must shift to either the ♣J or ♣9 (a low club won't do as declarer simply ducks and finesses West's ♣J later) and East, upon winning the trick, must exit in another suit and not try to give West a (nonexistent) club ruff.

Two teams were pouring it on as the first day neared its conclusion: Brachman and Johnson both scored three near blitzes in the evening. This deal helped Johnson's cause.

Bd: 21	♠ A10		
Dlr: North	♥ 94		
Vul: N/S	♦ J97432		
	♣ 976		
♠ 52		♠ K9763	
♥ AKQ862		♥ J10753	
♦ ---		♦ K85	
♣ QJ543		♣ ---	
	♠ QJ84		
	♥ ---		
	♦ AQ106		
	♣ AK1082		

As you can see, red-suit slams pose interesting declarer and defensive play problems here. 6♦ by North avoids the Lightner double for the club ruff, but rudely falls victim to the defense of two rounds of hearts to establish the ♦K in due course. 6♥ by East comes even closer. The defense has to take their ♠A in order to lead trumps, otherwise declarer has eleven trump tricks plus the ♠K. Meckwell reached 6♥ doubled from the West side and received the ♠A lead followed by a diamond shift; +1210. This turned out to be a 24-imp swing. Greco-Hampson conceded the "normal" 650

in 5♥ doubled to gain 11 imps when Fredin overcalled 5♥(!) over a strong club.

Ritchie Schwartz as South opened 1♣ and doubled 4♥ when that came back around to him. Drew Casen broke Edgar Kaplan's first rule ("Take out partner's takeout doubles") and conceded -790—a normal number in an unusual fashion. It was a little unlucky to gain only 4 imps when, at the other table, Weichsel opened 1♦ and also doubled 4♥. When the opponents bid on to 5♥ Sontag doubled, but could do no better than hold his opponents to 650.

Bd: 27	♠ K4		
Dlr: South	♥ KJ1053		
Vul: None	♦ KQJ10		
	♣ J6		
♠ 108		♠ AQJ932	
♥ A2		♥ 9	
♦ A98654		♦ ---	
♣ A72		♣ KQ9854	
	♠ 765		
	♥ Q8764		
	♦ 732		
	♣ 103		
West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>		<i>Martel</i>	
			Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Martel-Stansby had a good auction here. Martel took an interesting view not to go beyond 4♠ but Stansby knew his aces were golden and jumped to 6♣ to offer a choice of slams. Martel was happy to opt for clubs. This was worth 11 imps against the tame 440 at the other table. Some pairs climbed even higher: Against Greco-Hampson, Fredin-Lindkvist bid all the way to 7♣ and found their luck was in—on this board, but still not enough to avoid the blitz.



Match Seven:

Bd: 2	♠ 85		
Dlr: East	♥ KQ95		
Vul: N/S	♦ KJ87		
	♣ AK4		
♠ KJ632		♠ A1074	
♥ J10764		♥ A832	
♦ 432		♦ 106	
♣ ---		♣ 932	
	♠ Q9		
	♥ ---		
	♦ AQ95		
	♣ QJ108765		

An intriguing defensive problem arose here. Would your signaling and suit-preference methods cover this? Sontag-Weichsel (N/S) bid as follows:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♠(2)
Dbl	3♦(1)	3♠	4♣
4♠	6♣	Dbl	All Pass

So far, so ugly. West led an imaginative ♠K in case his partner had the ace and a void. This held the trick as East took his time to follow with an upside-down count four. So now the question is whether the ♠4 is simple reverse count or, if the partnership can "assume" that a second spade is not standing up, is it suit preference? Unluckily from West's perspective, if declarer had eight clubs and one spade he might be pitching diamonds on hearts, or vice versa. Jassem as West eventually decided that the ♠4 was suit preference, not count, and shifted to a diamond. That meant -1540 and 13 imps away (his teammates conceded 750 by doubling 5♣—at least they cashed out!) instead of 14 imps the other way.

Matches Eight and Nine:

The two critical deals in this round's match between the two top teams were as follows.

Bd: 16	♠ Q62		
Dlr: West	♥ AKQ4		
Vul: E/W	♦ A1096		
	♣ 85		
♠ KJ8		♠ 10754	
♥ 98		♥ J1063	
♦ Q87532		♦ K	
♣ J9		♣ K642	
	♠ A93		
	♥ 752		
	♦ J4		
	♣ AQ1073		

Both tables reached 3NT from the North seat on relatively uninformative auctions. Both declarers received a heart lead, won in hand, and led a club to the ten and jack. Stansby shifted to a diamond to the king and Martel returned a heart. Declarer now had a route to nine tricks via a club to the queen and a second diamond finesse. When the $\diamond J$ held, he could safely revert to clubs and set up his ninth trick there.

Perry Johnson returned a heart at trick three (after winning his $\clubsuit J$). Weichsel won, took a second club finesse, then ran the $\diamond J$ to the bare king. Meckstroth exited with the $\heartsuit J$ and was thrown in with the fourth heart. That forced a discard from dummy; Weichsel chose a spade and Meckstroth then led a spade to his partner's king and when Johnson returned a diamond declarer misguessed, rising with the ace, and had only eight tricks.

Bd: 18	\spadesuit K10862		
Dir: East	\heartsuit KQ10		
Vul: N/S	\diamond Q5		
	\clubsuit Q107		
\spadesuit Q974		\spadesuit ---	
\heartsuit 754		\heartsuit A32	
\diamond A732		\diamond KJ10964	
\clubsuit 54		\clubsuit KJ93	
	\spadesuit AJ53		
	\heartsuit J986		
	\diamond 8		
	\clubsuit A862		

Both tables found the $5\diamond$ save over $4\spadesuit$ but on very different auctions. Greco heard...

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Greco</i>
		$1\diamond$	Dbl
$1\spadesuit$	Dbl	$2\diamond$	$2\spadesuit$
$3\diamond$	$4\spadesuit$	$5\diamond$	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

...while Sontag heard...

West	North	East	South
<i>Johnson</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
		$1\diamond(1)$	Dbl
$1\spadesuit$	Dbl	$2\diamond$	Pass
$3\diamond$	$3\spadesuit$	Pass	$4\spadesuit$
Pass	Pass	$5\diamond$	All Pass

Greco led a trump and Martel drew a second round, then tried a club to the jack; it was a blind guess as to whether to play the king or jack, but once in a blue moon he would find $\clubsuit Q10x$ onside and actually make his contract. Bingo! That was +550. Alan Sontag found the heart lead and now declarer had to guess the clubs to escape for down one.

Despite this 12-imp pickup for Meltzer, Johnson won the match 20-10 to take a 20 VP lead going into the final match.

Bd: 21	\spadesuit 2		
Dir: North	\heartsuit 5		
Vul: N/S	\diamond KQ10		
	\clubsuit AQJ108632		
\spadesuit A9643		\spadesuit QJ8	
\heartsuit J83		\heartsuit A107	
\diamond J98		\diamond 76432	
\clubsuit 94		\clubsuit K7	
	\spadesuit K1075		
	\heartsuit KQ9642		
	\diamond A5		
	\clubsuit 5		

Sometimes the most hopeless looking contracts can be made if you don't give up. Here Sam Lev reached $5\clubsuit$ (how many could reach 3NT?) and got the $\spadesuit Q$ lead (West had doubled earlier for a spade lead). When he covered, the defense took the $\spadesuit A$ and continued the suit—wouldn't you? Sam ruffed, crossed to the $\diamond A$, ruffed a spade (the jack falling), cashed the $\diamond K$, ruffed the $\diamond Q$, and pitched his heart on the $\spadesuit 10$. East could ruff, but now Lev had eleven tricks.

The battle for second place was won by Brachman, who beat Meltzer 20-10, pushing the latter into third place. Fantoni and Nunes had two great hands for their $2\diamond$ opening (five-plus diamonds in a minimum opening hand). This was the first.

Bd: 19	\spadesuit KQJ43		
Dir: South	\heartsuit J2		
Vul: E/W	\diamond 8		
	\clubsuit Q10832		
\spadesuit 1097		\spadesuit A82	
\heartsuit Q10876		\heartsuit A9543	
\diamond KJ2		\diamond AQ75	
\clubsuit J6		\clubsuit 9	
	\spadesuit 65		
	\heartsuit K		
	\diamond 109643		
	\clubsuit AK754		

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>
			$2\diamond(1)$
Pass	$2\spadesuit(2)$	Pass	$3\clubsuit(3)$
All Pass			

(1) 5+ diamonds, minimum opening bid
 (2) Invitational
 (3) Minimum, no spade fit

At the other table Sontag-Weichsel did well to save in $5\clubsuit$ over $4\heartsuit$, but here Fantoni-Nunes bid unmolested to $3\clubsuit$. In all

fairness to Martel, since 3♣ did not actually show clubs it was difficult for him to come into the auction.

Fantoni's second 2♦ opener was:

Bd: 25	♠ J106		
Dlr: North	♥ 10		
Vul: E/W	♦ QJ1052		
	♣ A984		
♠ AK832		♠ Q9754	
♥ AQ96		♥ J754	
♦ 93		♦ A	
♣ J2		♣ Q105	
	♠ ---		
	♥ K832		
	♦ K8764		
	♣ K763		

At the other table Sontag-Weichsel pushed their opponents to 5♠ which fetched eleven tricks. But after Fantoni opened 2♦ in third seat Stansby doubled and Nunes jumped to 5♦. Can you blame E/W for defending—and just collecting 100?

The Johnson team picked up another big win in their last match, to take the title by more than a match. The battle for second place was won by Brachman, who beat Meltzer 20-10, pushing the latter into third place.

Place	VPs	Team
1	201	Johnson (Meckstroth-Rodwell, Hampson-Greco)
2	166	Brachman (Passell-Wold, Fantoni-Nunes)
3	162	Meltzer (Larsen, Sontag-Weichsel, Stansby-Martel)



2003 John "Jocko" Roberts Teams winners: Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco, Perry Johnson, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell

The Pairs—Session One:

Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco picked up in the pairs right where they left off in the teams.

Bd: 2	♠ Q74		
Dlr: East	♥ K543		
Vul: N/S	♦ 10		
	♣ KQ984		
♠ 86		♠ AKJ9	
♥ J98		♥ Q	
♦ AKJ6		♦ Q8732	
♣ 10753		♣ A62	
	♠ 10532		
	♥ A10762		
	♦ 954		
	♣ J		

The field was playing in diamond partscores, with ten tricks being the norm. Hampson elected to open the East hand a 14-16 notrump and was raised to game. When the heart

lead rode around to his bare queen, Hampson had nine tricks and a swing against the rest of the field.

Bd: 4	♠ AK9		
Dlr: West	♥ J108		
Vul: Both	♦ 105		
	♣ AJ984		
♠ Q1084		♠ 752	
♥ Q752		♥ A4	
♦ Q743		♦ J6	
♣ 5		♣ KQ10732	
	♠ J63		
	♥ K963		
	♦ AK982		
	♣ 6		

El Ahmady and Sadek met Ventin-Lantaron in Round Two and had the partnership methods to catch their opponents speeding. After the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lantaron</i>	<i>El Ahmadi</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	2♣	?

Sadek doubled for takeout and El Ahmady was delighted to pass. Perfect defense might net 1100 (a diamond lead and a spade shift, followed by a heart) but Sadek cashed both top diamonds and led a heart. Ventin looked this gift horse in the mouth by not putting up the ♡Q, and now found himself losing five plain-suit tricks and three trumps for -800. While a fair percentage of the field reached the thin 3NT contract and brought home nine tricks, +800 was still worth 166 cross-imps.

Bd: 7	♠ J10642		
Dlr: South	♡ 865		
Vul: Both	◇ K		
	♣ K875		
♠ AK83		♠ Q75	
♡ KJ92		♡ A107	
◇ 10		◇ AQJ72	
♣ QJ93		♣ A6	
	♠ 9		
	♡ Q43		
	◇ 986543		
	♣ 1042		

Just how good a slam is 6NT here? George Jacobs and Ralph Katz reached it on the auction 1♣-2NT; 3NT-4NT (17-19); 5NT(pick a slam)-6♦; 6♡-6NT. Von Arnim and Auken reached 6♡ on a highly complex auction. The four-three fit offered a few extra chances but essentially, with the ♡Q conveniently placed and both minor-suit kings in the slot, twelve tricks were very straightforward.

Bd: 9	♠ AQJ5		
Dlr: North	♡ 942		
Vul: E/W	◇ 1063		
	♣ Q73		
♠ 62		♠ 94	
♡ AK86		♡ J10753	
◇ J852		◇ Q	
♣ KJ8		♣ A9542	
	♠ K10873		
	♡ Q		
	◇ AK974		
	♣ 106		

Almost everyone reached 4♠ here, and found a disappointing dummy in terms of the minor-suit honors. And almost every declarer tried the same finagle: The typical defense tried to cash two hearts. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, led a low

diamond to the queen and king, then innocently advanced a low diamond from hand hoping West would be asleep at the switch. (Variations on this theme came when West shifted to a diamond at trick two: Zia ducked this but only succeeded in running into a diamond ruff for two down.) As far as we could determine, in the entire field only Helgemo and Sadek were successful in sneaking a diamond through to the ten.

Helgemo is well known as an escape artist. He needed more than a little help to come home with seven tricks here.

Bd: 10	♠ 10543		
Dlr: East	♡ Q75		
Vul: Both	◇ 109		
	♣ J876		
♠ KJ6		♠ 987	
♡ A4		♡ J1086	
◇ Q85		◇ K643	
♣ 109542		♣ AK	
	♠ AQ2		
	♡ K932		
	◇ AJ72		
	♣ Q3		

The auction was: (1♦)-1NT-(Dbl)-AP. Helgemo, as South, received a fourth highest club lead. Normal defense appears to be to unblock the clubs and play a spade through, which seems to hold declarer to no more than five tricks. But at trick two East played the ♡J, which ran to dummy's queen. Helgemo now played the ♡5 from dummy—and ran it to the ace! Back came the ♣2 to the ace, which East read as suit preference and shifted to a diamond to West's queen. If West returns a club now, declarer has seven tricks by leading the ◇10 from dummy. So West exited with a low diamond to the ten, queen and ace. Helgemo now exited with a low spade, West took his jack, but could do no better than get off play with the ◇8. Helgemo cashed his red-suit winners, then exited with the ♠AQ to force West to concede trick thirteen to dummy's ♣J.



Depending on your weak two-bid style, the West hand on Board 12 either looks like a classic weak two or nothing like one at all.

Bd: 12	♠ K7		
Dlr: West	♥ A6		
Vul: N/S	♦ A976543		
	♣ 42		
♠ J98643		♠ A52	
♥ 97		♥ QJ853	
♦ 102		♦ ---	
♣ AJ10		♣ KQ985	
	♠ Q10		
	♥ K1042		
	♦ KQJ8		
	♣ 763		

If you believe in getting your blows in first, you'll open 2♠, push your opponents to 5♦, and then East should surely choose to defend, though at many tables (for example, against Verhees-Jansma and Berkowitz-Cohen) East took the unilateral save in 5♠. That netted the Dutchmen 300 and the Americans 500 (and no, we won't spell out the line that led to 500 other than to say that the world-class declarer lost three trump tricks to achieve that result).

Passell-Wold did even better when West chose to pass:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Passell</i>		<i>Wold</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

There was no way on this auction that it was going to be that easy to cash out; on a heart lead Wold took his nine top tricks for +600 and a great result.

Bd: 15	♠ QJ1097653		
Dlr: South	♥ K74		
Vul: N/S	♦ QJ		
	♣ ---		
♠ K		♠ A84	
♥ 932		♥ AJ86	
♦ K7632		♦ 98	
♣ AKJ9		♣ 8632	
	♠ 2		
	♥ Q105		
	♦ A1054		
	♣ Q10754		

Peter Fredin needs to keep up his reputation for finding one call no one else would consider in every set. He achieved his goal here when, after the auction went 1♣-

(3♠)-Dbl-(P), he tried 3NT by virtue of his "partial" spade stop. The ♠Q lead went to his king and he advanced the ♣A to find the good and bad news. Next he played a heart to the eight and ten and when his RHO got out with a small diamond he hopped up with the king, led a heart to the ace, a club to the nine, and exited with a third heart. The defense now fell from grace: The winning line is to cash the ♦A10 and lead a low diamond, locking declarer in hand to concede a club at the end. But what happened was that when North led the ♦Q South ducked and now North had to give dummy an entry for the spade and heart tricks and the second club finesse. Contract made!

Geir Helgemo reached the same 3NT contract on the identical auction (what is it about Scandinavians not needing stoppers for notrump?) and also received a spade lead to his king. He ducked a diamond at once and North did well to win and shift to a low heart to South's ten. A heart return would now have guaranteed defeating the contract but instead South played a club. Had Helgemo been up to finessing he would have immediately guaranteed his contract. But he rose with the ace and ducked a second heart. South, in for the second time, could once again have guaranteed the set by exiting with a heart. But he chose to exit with a low diamond and Helgemo now rose with the king, played a heart to the ace, cashed his heart and spade winners and caught South in a strip-squeeze in the minors to come home with nine tricks.

Bd: 16	♠ J654		
Dlr: West	♥ J107642		
Vul: E/W	♦ K10		
	♣ Q		
♠ AK9		♠ ---	
♥ Q853		♥ AK9	
♦ AJ96		♦ 87543	
♣ J6		♣ AK1053	
	♠ Q108732		
	♥ ---		
	♦ Q2		
	♣ 98742		
West	North	East	South
<i>Meltzer</i>		<i>Weichsel</i>	
1NT	2♦(1)	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠(2)	Pass	5NT(3)	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
(1) Unspecified major			
(2) Cue-bid			
(3) Pick a slam			

Weichsel and Meltzer bid this hand very competently. Weichsel received the ♣2 lead, six, queen, ace. He now led a diamond up and took 5 minutes to decide which was

more likely, four-zero diamonds or that Wildavsky (South) was long in hearts (with only three spades out was that even possible?) He misguessed, playing low from dummy, and went two down instead of making.

Wold and Passell were perhaps the luckiest pair in the room here; they reached 6♦ from the wrong side against Greco-Hampson (on the auction: 1NT-(2♥)-3♣[♦, invit+]-P; 3NT-P-6♣-P; 6♦-AP) and got the ♣Q lead...after which there was no danger of misguessing trumps.

Bd: 19	♠ AJ532		
Dlr: South	♥ 5		
Vul: E/W	♦ 10743		
	♣ 1065		
♠ 1098		♠ 4	
♥ Q83		♥ A10764	
♦ Q65		♦ KJ8	
♣ AQJ4		♣ 9732	
	♠ KQ76		
	♥ KJ92		
	♦ A92		
	♣ K8		
West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♠
All Pass			

Both pairs did well here. On a trump lead Berkowitz took the ♠J and led a heart. Auken ducked smoothly (nicely done; if she takes her ace declarer sets up discards for a diamond loser)—and Berkowitz went up with the king. He then ruffed a heart, led a club to the king and ace, and won the trump return in hand. Now he ducked a diamond and Auken won to shift to a club to Von Arnim's jack. She now has a choice of defenses. If she plays a third trump Berkowitz can set up the diamond, so she led the ♥Q. But now Berkowitz simply ruffed both heart losers in dummy and emerged with one heart, one diamond, three heart ruffs and four spades for nine tricks.



A couple of deals later Von Arnim took a cautious view and

must have been surprised to walk into a buzz-saw.

Bd: 21	♠ AQJ953		
Dlr: North	♥ ---		
Vul: N/S	♦ 10973		
	♣ 1063		
♠ K106		♠ 842	
♥ A82		♥ Q10943	
♦ AJ6		♦ 842	
♣ AQ98		♣ 52	
	♠ 7		
	♥ KJ765		
	♦ KQ5		
	♣ KJ74		
West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Cohen led the ♦9 (well done) to the queen, ducked, and Berkowitz shifted to the ♠7, ten, jack. Cohen cashed the ♠A and gave his partner a ruff. When a second diamond came back Von Arnim guessed correctly to play the jack. Now she carefully passed the ♥8 to Berkowitz for down two; not a tragedy as almost everyone got into trouble on the E/W cards.

We've already seen fit on a couple of occasions to pass snide comments on Peter Fredin's propensity to bid notrump when other people see no such reason. Well, it's time to set the record straight. Peter held the balanced 18-count in the West seat and heard his vulnerable LHO open 2♠, passed back to him. The field reopened with either double or 2NT and were frequently punished to the tune of 300. Fredin took a look at his defensive spade holding and side aces—and passed! Right he was. On a club lead the defense had five minor-suit winners and a trump trick. Plus 100 was worth 172 cross-imps.

Bd: 25	♠ K92		
Dlr: North	♥ K864		
Vul: E/W	♦ A109		
	♣ A84		
♠ AJ543		♠ 106	
♥ A10		♥ J9753	
♦ KJ52		♦ 6	
♣ KJ		♣ Q10953	
	♠ Q87		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ Q8743		
	♣ 762		

West	North	East	South
<i>B. Passell</i>	<i>Lazard</i>	<i>Strul</i>	<i>Bramley</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	1NT	All Pass	

Against 1NT Strul led the ♠10 to the queen, ace and nine (nice play). Passell shifted to the ♣J and Lazard ducked. Strul overtook with the queen and played a heart to the ten and king. Lazard played the ♦A and rode the ♦10 to the jack. Passell cashed the ♥A and ♦K (better to play a low spade here, giving declarer his entry while he can't use it), then played the ♣K. But when Lazard ducked, Passell was left with only spades and diamonds and had to concede the rest of the tricks to dummy.

Session Two:

Bd: 5	♠ 85		
Dlr: North	♥ A62		
Vul: N/S	♦ Q4		
	♣ AKQ932		
♠ KJ106		♠ Q943	
♥ 98		♥ KQJ10543	
♦ A753		♦ 10	
♣ 854		♣ 6	
	♠ A72		
	♥ 7		
	♦ KJ9862		
	♣ J107		

The first-session leaders, Fantoni-Nunes, took on Berkowitz-Cohen and judged this board very well. Fantoni opened 1♣ (good hand, clubs or balanced) and when Cohen overcalled 4♥ Nunes could double to show cards, letting Fantoni retreat to 5♣. Everybody passed, though Berkowitz gave a little thought to bidding 5♥. That would have been very right this time since only an unlikely ruff holds 5♥ to nine tricks.

However, that was not the best N/S result. When Harry Tudor held the South cards after 1♠-(4♥), he tried 4NT for the minors and Gary Cohler jumped to 6♣. There were two leads to beat the slam (a spade or the ♦10) and two to let it through. When the opening lead was the ♥K, declarer could draw two rounds of trumps before playing diamonds and make twelve tricks easily.

In a sense Whitman and Baze did better. Baze opened 1NT, Stewart overcalled 3♥, and Whitman jumped to 5♦, raised by Baze to six. This time there is only one lead to set the slam and it was very tough for Woolsey to find a spade. Of course it was possible to do far worse on the N/S cards. Mike Moss as West heard the auction go (1♠)-4♥-(Dbl)-P; (6♣)-P-(P) to him. He doubled and was charmed to hear his opponents retreat to 6NT. 6NT doubled should have gone down 1100 but even +800 was quite satisfactory. As if to rub it in, the auction came up perfectly for Fantoni and Nunes to bid 5♥ themselves on the next deal.

Bd: 6	♠ 7		
Dlr: East	♥ 106432		
Vul: E/W	♦ Q42		
	♣ AJ43		
♠ A108654		♠ KQ93	
♥ K		♥ A	
♦ KJ763		♦ A10	
♣ 9		♣ KQ8752	
	♠ J2		
	♥ QJ9875		
	♦ 985		
	♣ 106		
West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		1♣(1)	2♥
2♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Cohen's pass of 5♥ would normally request Berkowitz to double. When Berkowitz bid 6♦ Cohen had to guess whether to bid 6♠ or 7♠. Perhaps 6♥ would have given his partner the option of bidding 6♠ or 7♠. Whatever the case, Cohen got it wrong and Fantoni promptly cashed the ♣A against the Grand Slam.

Bd: 16	♠ KQ42		
Dlr: West	♥ Q72		
Vul: E/W	♦ A		
	♣ Q9654		
♠ AJ63		♠ 85	
♥ 3		♥ AK95	
♦ Q962		♦ K10873	
♣ K872		♣ A10	
	♠ 1097		
	♥ J10864		
	♦ J54		
	♣ J3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>		<i>Pszczola</i>	
Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Jacek Pszczola did well in the auction to reach 3NT but he did less well in the play. On the ♥J lead he won and led a diamond to the queen and ace; from that point on he had no real chance. Arguably this precise diamond distribution is the most likely if the suit splits three-one. (You have no problems against two-two splits of course.) South's decision not to lead a club suggests that North has five-

plus clubs, which again points to North's having short diamonds. So cross to dummy with the top club or spade and lead a low diamond toward your hand; the ace falls on empty air. (In 5♦ you need to make the same play early on in the trump suit in order to hold your trump losers to one, and to get your heart ruffs in dummy without promoting a second trump trick for your opponents.)

Bd: 18	♠ J9		
Dlr: East	♥ 10932		
Vul: N/S	♦ 942		
	♣ KQ105		
♠ AKQ4		♠ 863	
♥ AQ87		♥ KJ65	
♦ KJ6		♦ A107	
♣ A8		♣ J43	
	♠ 10752		
	♥ 4		
	♦ Q853		
	♣ 9762		

Two boards later Pszczola had a chance to redeem himself. He reached 6♥ as North and received a low spade lead from East. He won in dummy to cash the ♥AQ. When the four-one split came to light he played ace and another club, and could win the next heart in hand to ruff his third club low. Now he could cross to the ♦A to play the last trump to catch South in a show-up squeeze.

A payment of a relatively small number of dollars will persuade me to reveal which superstar started trumps by leading a high honor from each hand. Now when the bad split came to light he could play ace and another club but the third trump left him in the dummy, and now he needed to play a diamond to the ten to try to obtain enough hand entries for the club ruff. Unlucky, one down!

Bd: 19	♠ Q6		
Dlr: South	♥ Q105		
Vul: E/W	♦ A72		
	♣ KQ965		
♠ 10972		♠ AJ83	
♥ KJ64		♥ A32	
♦ QJ9		♦ 843	
♣ 107		♣ 432	
	♠ K54		
	♥ 987		
	♦ K1065		
	♣ AJ8		

It is not so easy to bid 3NT from the correct (North) side. Ralph Katz managed it on the uncontested auction 1♣(in third seat)-1♦; 1NT-2NT; 3NT. He got a spade lead which rode around to his queen and now could have simply led up to the ♠K for his ninth trick. But he was worried that

even if the ♠A was onside he would lose that trick and four heart tricks if the ♥J was wrong. So he tried an alternative maneuver: he crossed to a club in dummy and led a heart to the queen—which held! So Ralph claimed his nine tricks and moved on, leaving his opponents muttering.

Session Three:

Bd: 3	♠ Q63		
Dlr: South	♥ ---		
Vul: E/W	♦ 983		
	♣ AKQ10964		
♠ AK4		♠ 1072	
♥ 10753		♥ QJ82	
♦ KQ752		♦ AJ104	
♣ 3		♣ 85	
	♠ J985		
	♥ AK964		
	♦ 6		
	♣ J72		

When you reach 5♣ off three cashing winners you do not generally realize that game is on a finesse for the eight of trumps. But Eric Rodwell was alive to all the possibilities and exploited the location of the ♣8 to bring home eleven tricks. He reached 5♣ on the auction:

West	North <i>Rodwell</i>	East	South <i>Dawson</i>
			Pass
1♦	2♣	Dbl	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

and was treated to the lead of the ♣5. He had to guess whether this was from ♣53 or ♣85 and got it right when he inserted dummy's seven. When this held he cashed the ♥AK to pitch spades, then ruffed a heart and exited with a diamond. Now his LHO could win and lead a second trump but Rodwell could win in dummy and ruff out the hearts to set up his eleventh winner. (Larry Cohen, amongst others, reached the same contract and made it by identical play.)

Bd: 7	♠ QJ984		
Dlr: South	♥ 97		
Vul: Both	♦ J984		
	♣ 74		
♠ AK		♠ 53	
♥ AKJ65		♥ Q842	
♦ Q1052		♦ A73	
♣ A6		♣ Q1095	
	♠ 10762		
	♥ 103		
	♦ K6		
	♣ KJ832		

6♥ produced the most scintillating play and defense possibilities so far. Say you reach 6♥ from the strong hand and are given a chance on the lead of the ♠Q. You strip the spades, draw trumps and lead a diamond to the ace.

Both Zia and Gene Freed found the necessary unblock of the ♦K and their declarers went down by leading a club to the ace and a club up. On reflection both unlucky declarers may have been kicking themselves for two reasons: The first is that if they had cashed the ♦A at trick two they might have avoided giving the show away and tipping South off to the possibility of an unblock. But the second and more serious reason was that 6♥ was still cold even after the unblock. Since South surely has the ♣K (or there would be no need to unblock), you lead the ♣Q from dummy, covered all around. Now you have to guess what to do next. Leading up to the ♣10 would work if North has the ♣J or the doubleton ♣8 or ♣7, with the diamonds originally five-one. But as the cards lie the winning line is to cash the ♦Q before playing a second club to the ten. If South ducks, you concede a diamond trick only while if South wins he is endplayed into either giving you a ruff-and-discard to pitch a diamond from dummy or to lead a club into your nine-five to allow you to pitch your diamond losers.



That was declarer's ninth trick. Mind you, even on a spade lead the defense would have been tough to find. And note, of course, that this is a board where N/S are a favorite to make game (even on a spade lead 5♦ can't be defeated).

Bd: 14	♠ A1096		
Dlr: East	♥ K43		
Vul: None	♦ K8765		
	♣ A		
♠ J7		♠ KQ5432	
♥ A105		♥ QJ92	
♦ Q10		♦ 43	
♣ KQ9763		♣ J	
	♠ 8		
	♥ 876		
	♦ AJ92		
	♣ 108542		

Gaylor Kasle managed to manufacture a spectacular amount of bricks without any straw. After the ambitious auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Johnson</i>	<i>Compton</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Dbl	2♠	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Kasle took the ♣J opening lead with the ace, played ♦K, ♦A, then passed the ♠8! Meckstroth won to play a heart but Kasle could score his ♥K, then cash the ♠A and run the ♠10 to establish his eleventh trick (seven trumps, two spades, one heart and one club). If Johnson covers the ♠8 with the jack declarer has to guess which doubleton he has. (On the auction with Meckstroth apparently having a weak-two type hand in spades but not having opened, the calculation is a fairly close one.)

Fallenius and Welland were in the process of putting together a very solid set when they met Kwiecien-Pszczola. They had just the right machinery to reach slam here.

Bd: 17	♠ 653		
Dlr: North	♥ KJ2		
Vul: None	♦ ---		
	♣ Q1096432		
♠ J1087		♠ A2	
♥ 3		♥ A84	
♦ J10874		♦ AKQ9632	
♣ 875		♣ A	
	♠ KQ94		
	♥ Q109765		
	♦ 5		
	♣ KJ		

Bd: 10	♠ A764		
Dlr: East	♥ Q5		
Vul: Both	♦ 9632		
	♣ 543		
♠ KQ102		♠ J5	
♥ 9876		♥ A2	
♦ J10		♦ K5	
♣ 1076		♣ AKQJ982	
	♠ 983		
	♥ KJ1043		
	♦ AQ874		
	♣ ---		

Wold and Passell were continuing their winning ways. Here, for example, after the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>		<i>Wold</i>	
		2♣	2♥
Dbl(1)	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Values			

Can you blame South for leading a "surprise" diamond?

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
	Pass	2♣	2♥
Dbf(1)	3♥	4♦	4♥
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
(1) 0/1 heart			

Fallenius gave some thought to doing more here, but trusted Welland to have produced a cue-bid if he had one. 6♥ is of course remarkably cheap (both Kwiecien and Pszczola might well have done more here) though the room found the N/S hands too tough to handle. 6♦ was bid almost universally, so +920 was only worth 47 cross-imps.

Bd: 19	♠ Q64		
Dlr: South	♥ 8		
Vul: E/W	♦ AJ10832		
	♣ 543		
♠ AK1073		♠ J8	
♥ KQJ76		♥ 9532	
♦ ---		♦ Q64	
♣ KQ7		♣ J1098	
	♠ 952		
	♥ A104		
	♦ K975		
	♣ A62		

Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz missed the chance for a coup, of sorts, here. David opened 1NT (10-12) and Doug Doub overcalled 2♣ (Landy). When Larry Cohen jumped to 3♦ (somewhere between an invite and a preempt) David cue-bid 3♥ to show his values. Doub now tried 4♦ to get his partner to pick a major and Wildavsky's 4♥ ended the auction. Adam collected a painless +620, but this seemed unremarkable in the context of 5♦ being easily set 500 via the spade ruff.

The unusual sacrifice available to N/S is 4NT. Assuming you guess the diamonds (pretty close to 100 percent on the auction) you can escape for -300. Brogeland-Erichsen found the 4NT save; we're still awaiting the results of the saliva test.

One of the nicer defensive plays of the event came on this board when Ralph Katz and George Jacobs were defending 5♥, declared by Bart Bramley from the strong hand. Katz led the ♦A, reasonably enough, and Bramley ruffed to lead the ♥K. Jacobs took the first heart (to conceal the bad split) and returned a low diamond. Bramley naturally ruffed this rather than running it to the queen and now he could not draw all the trumps and ruff out the spades, as he would run out of trumps. The best he could do was to ruff out spades and lead a club, but Jacobs could win his ♣A and lead the ♦K, to promote his ♥10.

Bd: 22	♠ AJ875		
Dlr: East	♥ 32		
Vul: E/W	♦ A		
	♣ 97632		
♠ K1032		♠ 964	
♥ K964		♥ QJ10875	
♦ 8743		♦ J65	
♣ J		♣ 8	
	♠ Q		
	♥ A		
	♦ KQ1092		
	♣ AKQ1054		

Left to your own devices you'd surely be a lock to bid 7♣ here. However, even at favorable vulnerability one rarely gets left alone in an auction.

Chris Compton recognizes a hand of power and quality when he sees it, and he opened the East hand 2♥. Harry Tudor showed a powerhouse with the minors by jumping to 4♥, but when Cohler bid 6♣ he had to decide whether he was worth 7♣ or not. Tudor eventually passed, though not without considerable misgivings. It's tough not to be wise after the fact here, but when you're looking at all the top clubs isn't partner at least 17-to-13 (the required IMP odds) to hold two aces?

Bd: 24	♠ AJ97		
Dlr: West	♥ KJ102		
Vul: None	♦ KJ3		
	♣ K8		
♠ K2		♠ 10653	
♥ Q54		♥ 876	
♦ 9872		♦ Q6	
♣ QJ96		♣ A752	
	♠ Q84		
	♥ A93		
	♦ A1054		
	♣ 1043		

Billy Miller made a nice play here, though admittedly it was only for overtricks—but every imp counts.

Billy played 3NT as North on a heart lead to the queen and king. He crossed to the ♥A to pass the ♠Q, king, ace. Now the ♦J was covered by the queen and ace and the ♠8 was passed to the ten. East exited with a diamond so Miller cashed his heart and spade winners (with dummy keeping two diamonds and one club), reducing West to the bare ♣Q to keep diamonds guarded. Now Miller crossed to the ♦10 and led the ♣10 to the queen, king and ace and took trick thirteen with the ♣8 over the ♣7—a true Vice Squeeze.

Session Four:

Bd: 3	♠ J85	
Dlr: South	♥ AJ94	
Vul: E/W	♦ 108	
	♣ J865	
♠ Q9743		♠ ---
♥ Q7		♥ K5
♦ Q972		♦ KJ6543
♣ A4		♣ Q10972
	♠ AK1062	
	♥ 108632	
	♦ A	
	♣ K3	

The popular contract here was for South to play 4♥ (often doubled). The opening lead was almost invariably the ♠3, ruffed by East. At the tables where Louk Verhees and Mike Whitman held the East cards, they overruled the strong suit-preference implicit in the opening lead and shifted to a diamond, collecting their +100 in due course. Had they returned a club, declarer would surely have come to ten tricks. Bart Bramley did not follow the same set of instructions defending 5♥ doubled; he did playback his low club at trick two. Was he punished by collecting only +100 instead of +300? No. His declarer rose with the ♣K and Lazard gave him a second ruff. Bramley then cashed the ♣Q and led another club, promoting the ♥Q for down 500!

Board 7 was a difficult hand around the room.

Bd: 7	♠ AK1095	
Dlr: South	♥ A72	
Vul: Both	♦ 64	
	♣ Q43	
♠ J862		♠ Q7
♥ K1086		♥ QJ954
♦ K95		♦ A72
♣ A6		♣ KJ5
	♠ 43	
	♥ 3	
	♦ QJ1083	
	♣ 109872	

The typical auction started 1♠-P-P-? and the normal actions with the West cards are to pass or reopen with 1NT. If you let 1♠ play, on the ♥Q lead declarer collects six tricks. Conversely, if you reopen with 1NT what is East to do? The winning action is to drive to game, offering a choice of hearts or notrump, and West will surely opt for the suit game. If you don't want to transfer, and reach a five-three heart fit instead of 3NT, why not use Stayman instead? However, at the table where Brad Moss reopened with 1NT Fred Gitelman drove to 3NT without transferring. He would have been right to do so if Sam Lev had not had both the ♠10 and ♠9, since 4♥ can probably be reduced to

the club guess if the defense leads spades at every turn to kill the discard for the losing diamond. The fact remains that the decision was very expensive.

Note, if the defenders do lead four rounds of spades declarer might go wrong. Since one defender is known to have ten minor-suit cards, might you play for the minor-suit squeeze instead of the club finesse?

Bd: 10	♠ K72	
Dlr: East	♥ J43	
Vul: Both	♦ K984	
	♣ J42	
♠ J84		♠ Q1065
♥ Q82		♥ 10765
♦ Q1072		♦ 5
♣ 865		♣ Q1093
	♠ A93	
	♥ AK9	
	♦ AJ63	
	♣ AK7	

Even at the Cavendish, routine safety plays have their place. Imagine that as South you reach 3NT on the unremarkable auction 2♣-2♦; 2NT-3NT. Now you get a low spade lead to East's queen. While you are patting yourself on the back for not looking for slam, bear in mind that although you have several outside chances for developing a trick from your six-card fits, the simple way to play the hand is to take the opening lead and play the ♦A and lead a low diamond, intending to put in the nine if West follows small. This play ensures three diamond tricks against any lie of the cards. (If West shows out on the second diamond you change tack and go up with the king to lead a diamond to toward your jack.) Of course stopping in 3NT is another key to the deal, but think how embarrassing it would be to go down with 31 HCP!

Zia has been complaining that Hamman does not double enough, but finally we come to a deal where Bob could not resist using the red card. (Of course based on what we've seen so far, Zia doubles enough for the both of them.)

Bd: 12	♠ J9432	
Dlr: West	♥ QJ976	
Vul: N/S	♦ 2	
	♣ Q7	
♠ K6		♠ AQ85
♥ K108532		♥ 4
♦ 5		♦ A109843
♣ J832		♣ A10
	♠ 107	
	♥ A	
	♦ KQJ76	
	♣ K9654	

Playing against Fantoni-Nunes, Bob heard Zia open 2♥, which he passed. But when his LHO reopened with 3♦ he decided to risk a double. No one had anything more to say and Zia led a low club to the ten and king. Back came a club to Hamman's ace and the ♦8 went to the king. When declarer exited with a low club Hamman got his heart away. Declarer finished up scoring one club and three trump tricks for down 1400!

Bd: 13	♠ A52	
Dlr: North	♥ K8	
Vul: Both	♦ J96	
	♣ Q10873	
♠ K43		♠ 986
♥ AJ762		♥ 1093
♦ A54		♦ K108
♣ 96		♣ AKJ5
	♠ QJ107	
	♥ Q54	
	♦ Q732	
	♣ 42	

Gawrys opened the East hand one club (balanced 12-14 or strong) and rebid 1NT over his partner's 1♥ response. Jassem jumped to 3NT without checking for the five-three heart fit, and when Gitelman as South led a top spade Gawrys judged to duck, and to duck the next top spade as well. Moss won his ♠A and shifted to a club, but Gawrys took the ace, and ran the ♥10, later repeating the club and heart finesses to come to nine tricks.

Four hearts by West looks hopeless, but Sam Lev found a way to make it on a club lead. He put in the ♣J and passed the ♥10 to North, who returned a club. Lev now decided to assume that the spade finesse was wrong—why had North not shifted to a spade at trick three? So he won the second club and ran all his trumps. North came down to two spades, two diamonds, and his club guard, so Lev simply cashed the ♦AK, then played the ♠A and exited with a club to North, who had to lead away from his ♠A at trick twelve; contract made.

Bd: 20	♠ A64	
Dlr: West	♥ 853	
Vul: Both	♦ 1094	
	♣ A865	
♠ J1085		♠ K92
♥ K10		♥ Q74
♦ AKQ5		♦ 763
♣ K93		♣ J1072
	♠ Q73	
	♥ AJ962	
	♦ J82	
	♣ Q4	

Jon Wittes and Ross Grabel did well in defending 1NT here. After the normal auction 1NT-All Pass, Wittes (North) found the low heart lead to give the defense a chance. Declarer took Grabel's ♥J with his king and ran the ♠8 to the queen. Grabel exited with a low heart as declarer won the ten and played a second spade on which Wittes played the ace and declarer erred by unblocking the king. That let Wittes lead a third heart to his partner, horribly squeezing declarer. In the six-card ending he elected to keep his three top diamonds, two spades and the stiff ♠K, so the defense cashed out their clubs for down one.

Bd: 21	♠ 76	
Dlr: North	♥ 2	
Vul: N/S	♦ Q10542	
	♣ K10974	
♠ AKQJ9832		♠ 105
♥ 3		♥ A864
♦ 73		♦ A98
♣ Q5		♣ J862
	♠ 4	
	♥ KQJ10975	
	♦ KJ6	
	♣ A3	

What is the winning strategy with the South cards? In third seat opening 4♥ normally seems to act as a transfer to 4♠, in which case what else can you do but double when the auction gets back to you so at least you can blame partner if you concede -590 (or 690)? Still, if you open 1♥ what do you do when the next hand jumps to 4♠? It's tough to say, though bidding 5♥ escapes today for -200, the unusual save at unfavorable vulnerability. However, the N/S pair we were watching did considerably better.

Kit Woolsey (at red yet!) opened the North hand with 2NT. Yes, we know the definition is "both minors, less than an opening bid" and they do open light, but even so... Stewart jumped to 4♥, then persisted with 5♥ over 4♠, and can you blame Chemla for bidding 5♠ now? Unless his partner was going to produce two defensive tricks it would be a good save—but not today. On a heart lead Chemla took his best chance by winning the ace and leading a club from dummy. Stewart hopped up with the ace to shift to a diamond, and that was one down.



Going into the final round there were four pairs in contention: the Egyptians, the Italians and Moss-Gitelman, who were in front of those two pairs by less than 200 cross-IMPs, but who were about to take on the fourth-placed pair, Wittes-Grabel. The latter would need a game-swing or so to catch the leaders. This was the decisive deal:

Bd: 25	♠ 6543		
Dlr: North	♥ Q74		
Vul: E/W	♦ AK1087		
	♣ K		
♠ AJ		♠ 1092	
♥ AK9852		♥ J6	
♦ Q3		♦ J65	
♣ 1063		♣ AQJ98	
	♠ KQ87		
	♥ 103		
	♦ 942		
	♣ 7642		

The normal auction has North stretching to open 1♦ and South responding 1♠. Thereafter, when West overcalls 2♥, both sides will compete in the majors, but where will the music stop? Wittes-Grabel played 3♥ and Gitelman played for a club ruff—reasonably enough against 3♥—and

conceded 170.

The Italians passed the North hand, and then found their opponents reaching 3NT from the West seat; try and beat that! With the club finesse working that was 630 to Bertheau-Nystrom, and Fantoni-Nunes dropped to fourth place as a result. The Egyptians played 4♥ from the West seat; if that contract made, they would take home the first prize. No, Lindkvist led a top diamond and carefully shifted to spades, and now declarer could not set up a club or diamond discard for his spade loser before the defense could cash four winners.

On the last deal of the set Wittes-Grabel stayed out of an excellent slam; had they bid it and had they reached 3NT on the first deal, they would have won!

The final results:

Place	Score	Pair
1	2665.00	Fred Gitelman-Brad Moss
2	2343.00	Walid El Ahmady-Tarek Sadek
3	2062.00	Ross Grabel-Jon Wittes
4	2057.00	Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes
5	1856.00	Bob Hamman-Zia Mahmood
6	1815.00	Bjorn Fallenius-Roy Welland



2003 Cavendish Pairs winners:
Brad Moss and Fred Gitelman

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 8, 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 will be preliminary owners' cards for all expected participants. (Not all of these pairs may attend, but the vast majority are 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 were 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 the Registration Desk.