



# World Bridge Productions

Presents the

# C<sup>♠</sup>avendish<sup>wbp</sup>

## Invitational

Bulletin Number 1

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# Welcome to the 29th Annual Cavendish Invitational

World Bridge Productions welcomes you to the 2003 Cavendish Pairs, John "Jocko" 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](http://bridgebase.com)). The on-site proceedings will feature many of your favorite hosts and auctioneers including the inimitable George Jacobs, the eloquent Bob Hamman, the transcendental Zia Mahmood, the volatile Chris Compton and whoever else we think 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 "Jocko" 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.

This year's field is once again truly international in scope, as so many of our North American tournaments have become. Players are here from all over the world (but, 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 2003 Cavendish Invitational. We wish everyone a fun time and a successful experience. Once again enjoy the fabulous Mirage (we were here in 1997, 1998 and 2001), Las Vegas and good bridge to all!

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

## 2003 WBP Pairs Dedicated to Joe Jabon

This year's WBP Pairs is dedicated to the memory of Joe Jabon. Playing with Billy Miller, Joe won the first WBP Pairs held in 1998. The next year Joe fulfilled a lifetime dream by playing in the Cavendish Pairs (with Aidan Ballantyne) and finishing seventh.

Joe was the National Open Individual Pairs champion in

1959 and a member of the famed "Whiz Kids," a highly successful bridge team of the 1950s. He was also a terrific singer and lyricist who, with his beloved wife Shirley, wrote bridge lyrics and set them to popular songs. The couple's productions were the hit of many Northwest Pacific regional tournaments as well as the Reno NABC in 1998.

### Gamblers Non-Anonymous

Those players intending to gamble at the Mirage during their stay are advised to register at the Players Club desk located in the casino area; or check with Billy Rosenbaum, who has cards for most players. 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 new “prize-pool only” team format this year 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 7	11:30 AM	Opening Brunch Banquet	St. Croix
	1:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, Teams	Montego ABC
	7:30 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, Teams	Montego ABC
Thursday, May 8	12:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> (final) Session, Teams	Montego ABC
	6:30 PM	Cocktail Party	Cayman Court and Montego DEF
	7:15 PM	Pairs Auction	Cayman Court and Montego DEF
Friday, May 9	12:30 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, Pairs	Montego ABC
	7:30 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, Pairs	Montego ABC
Saturday, May 10	10:30 AM	WBP Brunch	St. Croix
	11:00 AM	WBP Auction	St. Croix
	12:30 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, Pairs	Montego ABC
	12:30 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Montego DEF
	7:30 PM	4 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Montego ABC
	7:30 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Montego DEF
Sunday, May 11	11:30 PM*	5 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Montego ABC
	12:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Montego DEF
	4:15 PM	Closing Party	St. Croix

\* expected

### Entrants for the John “Jocko” Roberts Teams 2003

(Based on information available at press time. This is unofficial. Updates will be published as they become available.)

- 1 **Lou Ann O'Rourke**, Fredrik Nystrom, Peter Bertheau, Peter Fredin, Magnus Lindkvist
- 2 **Drew Casen**, Richie Schwartz, Andrei Gromov, Aleksander Petrunin, Paul Chemla, Christian Mari
- 3 **Juan Ventin**, Luis Lantaron, Massimo Lanzarotti, Andrea Buratti, Guido Ferraro, Giorgio Duboin
- 4 **Rose Meltzer**, Peter Weichsel, Alan Sontag, Kyle Larsen, Chip Martel, Lou Stansby
- 5 **Nick Nickell** (NPC), Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Jacek Pszczola, Michal Kwiecien
- 6 **Perry Johnson**, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Eric Greco, Jeff Hampson
- 7 **Malcolm Brachman**, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Claudio Nunes, Fulvio Fantoni
- 8 **Seymon Deutsch**, Paul Soloway, Ron Smith, Billy Cohen, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski
- 9 **Roy Welland**, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein, Jimmy Cayne, Geir Helgemo
- 10 **Reese Milner**, Sam Lev, Piotr Gawrys, Krzysztof Jassem, Bob Blanchard, Marc Jacobus
- 11 **Russ Ekeblad**, Ron Rubin, Brad Moss, Fred Gitelman, Michael Seamon
- 12 **George Jacobs**, Ralph Katz, Mitch Dunitz, Iftikhir Baqai, Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen
- 13 **Mike Katz**, Billy Miller, Curtis Cheek, Sidney Lazard, Bart Bramley
- 14 **Pierre Zimmerman**, Alain Levy, Herve Mouiel, Pierre Sapporta
- 15 **E.C. Angelini Parioli**, Benito Garozzo, Nicola Del Buono, Alfredo Versace, Valerio Giubilo
- 16 **Mike Moss**, Joe Grue, Louk Verhees, Jan Jansma

## Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2003: Dedicated to the Memory of Joe Jabon

(Based on information available at press time. This is unofficial. Updates will be published as they become available.)

Pair #	Pair #
1 Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	15 Dan Klein – George Mittelman
2 Alan Graves – Brian Maksymetz	16 Kent Mignocchi – Beverly Perry
3 Lenny Holtz – Renee Mancuso	17 Vincent Demuy – Gavin Wolpert
4 Terri Casen – Larry Cohen	18 Lynn Baker – Debbie Rosenberg
5 Roger Lord – Jaqueline Sincoff	18 Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon
6 Leonard Ernst – Richard Halperin	19 Alan Cokin – Harold Lillie
7 Mike Cappelletti Jr. – Lou Ann O'Rourke	20 Lars Froeland – Aksel Hornslien
8 Bob Blanchard – Reese Milner	21 Steve Cox – Marshal Lewis
9 Russ Samuel – Shawn Samuel	22 Les Amoils – Darren Wolpert
10 Mark Lair – Jim Mahaffey	23 Simon Kantor – Jim Robison
11 Steve Scott – Haig Tchamitch	25 Garey Hayden – Barbara Kasle
12 Kyle Larsen – Jo Morse	26 Marjorie Michelin – Bob Morris
13 Rob Crawford – Dan Jacob	27 Ken Kranyak –
14 Derrell Childs – Louise Freed	

## Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs 2003

(Based on information available at press time. This is unofficial. Updates will be published as they become available.)

Pair #	Pair #
1 Mike Passell – Eddie Wold	26 Jan Jansma – Louk Verhees
2 Andrei Gromov – Aleksander Petrunin	27 Joe Grue – Mike Moss
3 Billy Cohen – Ron Smith	28 Sabine Auken – Daniela Von Arnim
4 Michael Kwiecien – Jacek Pszczola	29 Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin
5 Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson	30 Bob Hamman – Zia Mahmood
6 Paul Chemla – Christian Mari	31 Andrea Buratti – Massimo Lanzarotti
7 Perry Johnson – Jeff Meckstroth	32 Drew Casen – Richard Schwartz
8 Ross Grabel – Jon Wittes	33 Rose Meltzer – Peter Weichsel
9 Glenn Milgrim – Chris Willenken	34 Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes
10 Dennis Dawson – Eric Rodwell	35 Bart Bramley – Sidney Lazard
11 Valerio Giubilo – Alfredo Versace	36 Peter Fredin – Magnus Lindkvist
12 David Berkowitz – Larry Cohen	37 Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland
13 Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	38 Luis Lantaron – Juan Ventin
14 Alan Sontag – Lew Stansby	39 Doug Doub – Adam Wildavsky
15 Curtis Cheek – Billy Miller	40 Piotr Gawrys – Krzysztof Jassem
16 Boye Brogeland – Espen Erichsen	41 George Jacobs – Ralph Katz
17 Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	42 Marc Jacobus – Sam Lev
18 Pierre Sapporta – Pierre Zimmerman	43 Andy Robson – Rita Shugart
19 Chris Compton – Gaylor Kasle	44 Walid El Ahmady – Tarek Sadek
20 Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel	45 Nels Erickson – Gene Freed
21 Grant Baze – Michael Whitman	46 Nicola Del Buono – Benito Garozzo
22 Peter Bertheau – Fredrik Nystrom	47 Jimmy Cayne – Geir Helgemo
23 Gary Cohler – Harry Tudor	48 Giorgio Duboin – Guido Ferraro
24 Bill Passell – Aubrey Strul	49 Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss
25 Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	50 Czary Balicki – Adam Zmudzinski

# Last Year's Cavendish

(Adapted from articles by Barry Rigal)

## The Teams:

Here are a few of the more stimulating deals from the 2002 Teams event.

Dlr: West	♠ J9		
Vul: Both	♥ 54		
	♦ Q9853		
	♣ J1096		
♠ AK1075		♠ Q	
♥ K108		♥ AQJ93	
♦ K7		♦ A1064	
♣ 874		♣ A32	
	♠ 86432		
	♥ 762		
	♦ J2		
	♣ KQ5		

In the first round match between the two most expensive teams Garner and Weinstein bid:

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣(1)	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♥	All Pass		
(1) Serious slam try			

Over 5NT Garner knew he could not show his values precisely, so rather than bid 6♦ and trap his partner into a slow 6♥ bid he just leaped to the Grand Slam. This hand proved very awkward for standard methods; far more pairs missed the Grand Slam than bid it, although essentially it only requires four-three spades. However, as you will see, there are some extra chances involving the doubleton ♠J that turn out to be priceless in the actual layout.

On the trump lead Weinstein won, unblocked the ♠Q and crossed to the ♦K to cash the ♠AK. If they had stood up, he would have had a high crossruff; as it was, when North ruffed the third spade Weinstein needed to ruff two diamonds in dummy and for the ♠10 to live. All was well when North proved to be two-two in the majors and the contract made. Effectively this same line of play was followed by Sylvia Moss, playing with Sue Picus, to wrap up the Grand Slam. This helped their squad, the Mordecai team, to a comfortable lead after three matches. Indeed, they led by 25 VPs after six of the nine matches, before fading to finish eighth.

In Match Four I sat down behind Mouiel and Levy for the first board after supper. Perhaps they had dined too well—they

certainly started their set against Cornell and Wright with a spectacular catastrophe:

Dlr: North	♠ K83		
Vul: None	♥ A653		
	♦ AKQ		
	♣ AQ9		
♠ 97542		♠ Q6	
♥ KQ1042		♥ J8	
♦ 82		♦ J107654	
♣ 7		♣ 1054	
	♠ AJ10		
	♥ 97		
	♦ 93		
	♣ KJ8632		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Wright</i>	<i>Levy</i>
	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♥	2NT	Pass	3♠(1)
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass!			
(1) Transfer (clubs)			

Mouiel believed his partner had forgotten their system; Levy was confident he was showing long clubs and a spade control. 4♠ down two was not a success, with 6♣ easy and 7♣ makable. In the Grand Slam you win the trump lead and take a second top trump, then play off the top diamonds to pitch your heart. Now you lead two rounds of hearts ruffing in dummy, then draw two more rounds of trumps ending in hand, and ruff another heart. When you lead out dummy's last trump West is known to be five-five in the majors, since he has only three minor-suit cards while East had discarded on the third heart. Accordingly, you can pitch a spade from hand on the last trump, with a perfect show-up squeeze. (And yes, we will not name the player currently ranked in the world's top ten who failed to ruff out the hearts in 7♣ and then misguessed the ♠Q.)

Alain Levy rebounded from the earlier deal on what we must be one of the neater declarer plays of the event. On the following hand where 3NT by West was normally down one, Alain, West, declared the standard contract after opening a strong notrump. He was playing against no less a pair than Kwiecien-Pszczola.



Dlr: East	♠ 63		
Vul: E/W	♥ 8643		
	♦ 10754		
	♣ AJ2		
♠ 852		♠ QJ109	
♥ K2		♥ AJ5	
♦ AK96		♦ Q83	
♣ KQ63		♣ 1094	
	♠ AK74		
	♥ Q1097		
	♦ J2		
	♣ 875		

On the ♥6 lead (5, 9, K) Levy led a spade to the nine, which held. South won the second spade to play the ♣7 and North made a slight slip when he ducked Levy's queen. That loss of tempo in clearing the hearts turned out to be critical. It allowed Levy to set up the spades (on which North was forced to pitch a heart) and South exited with a club, won by North with the jack. North could not now afford to cash his last club since it would set up Levy's ninth winner, so he exited with a heart. Levy took the ace and had reached this six-card ending:

	♠ ---		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 10754		
	♣ A		
♠ ---		♠ Q	
♥ ---		♥ J	
♦ AK96		♦ Q83	
♣ K6		♣ 10	
	♠ 7		
	♥ Q10		
	♦ J2		
	♣ 8		

The ♠Q forced North to discard his last heart (as declarer pitched his low club). Levy cashed the ♦Q, led a diamond to the ace, and then endplayed poor North with the ♣A to lead into his diamond tenace. Nine tricks made!

Pierre Zimmerman and Pierre Saporta have come fresh from the French Trials, where they narrowly missed out on winning a spot on the French team for the next European Championships. As they demonstrated in their match against Brachman, their style is considerably more aggressive than some of their French counterparts.



Dlr: North	♠ J4		
Vul: None	♥ ---		
	♦ KJ1062		
	♣ QJ7653		
♠ Q107532		♠ A96	
♥ AQ5		♥ KJ1098742	
♦ Q3		♦ 8	
♣ 42		♣ 8	
	♠ K8		
	♥ 63		
	♦ A9754		
	♣ AK109		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmerman</i>	<i>Cappelletti</i>	<i>Saporta</i>
	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
5♥	6♦!	Dbl	All Pass

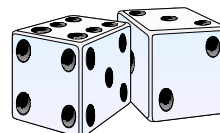
Zimmerman's 6♦ bid looks exceptionally forward, but no doubt Saporta would have bid 6♣ once the heart void in North was strongly suggested by the auction. Passell guessed to lead a spade rather than a club, but all that this achieved was to hold Saporta to twelve tricks; +1090 for the French.

Meanwhile, in the O'Rourke-Moss match E/W demonstrated that it was possible to do better with their cards, if given the opportunity.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Maybe Ferraro might have bid 6♣ himself, but it did not appear that he had any vulnerable honors to protect. Wrong! Fredin underled the ♠A at trick one and Duboin misguessed. Down one.

All of that brought us to the climax of the event in round nine, with the two leading teams destined to meet head on. Blanchard's squad (the Cavendish's chief organizer) was 7 VPs in front of O'Rourke, the latter needing a 19-11 win to take home the big prize. That meant winning by 4 IMPs, so one swing in a nine-board match would be enough. As it transpired, this was the critical board of the match.



Dlr: East	♠ J3		
Vul: Both	♥ J4		
	♦ AJ842		
	♣ 9743		
♠ Q1054		♠ A86	
♥ 3		♥ AQ9865	
♦ 1076		♦ 953	
♣ A10865		♣ 2	
	♠ K972		
	♥ K1072		
	♦ KQ		
	♣ KQJ		

By contrast, at the other table Lev, as South, reached 3NT doubled after a Stayman sequence in which he had shown four spades and in which Fredin, as West, also led a club. Lev won and could see that he needed to set up his club tricks early, so he returned the suit at trick two. Fredin won and now had to shift to the ♠Q to give declarer any problem. But on the Stayman sequence he followed a much better defense in abstract, that of hoping his partner had a top diamond as opposed to the ♠A. When he simply played back a third club Lev won and ran the diamonds, breathing a sigh of relief when the suit split three-three. That allowed him to reduce in the five-card ending to ♠K9 and ♥K107, with the lead in dummy. Then he led the ♥J and whatever Lindkvist did, he had to concede a heart trick to Lev and one additional trick in a major for +750, and what in the end was a comfortable win for Blanchard.

At both tables East opened 1♥ and North overcalled 1NT. For the O'Rourke team Miller and Cheek (N/S) stopped in 1NT when Cheek did not make a try over Miller's 1NT overcall. Gawrys (West) led a club which did neither particular harm nor good for the defence. Miller won this and simply ran the diamonds, overtaking the king, and then led a heart up to his hand. Jassem hopped up with the ace to play ace and another spade, and Gawrys had two spades and a club to cash in the end game to hold Miller to eight tricks; +120. The key to holding declarer to eight tricks was for Gawrys to keep winners (spades) and not losers (clubs).

Note that if West shifts to the ♠Q at trick three, declarer can still survive. As the cards lie, with the ♠8 onside, he can win and exit in spades, then get back on lead to play the ♠9 to set up a spade trick by force. Even better might be to duck the ♠Q. But if declarer wins the spade and runs his diamonds, he ends up squeezing his own hand.

<u>Final Results: Teams</u>	<u>VPs</u>	<u>Auction</u>	<u>POOL Player</u>	<u>Price (in \$K)</u>
Blanchard-Lev, Gawrys-Jassem	198	54	20	10
Levy-Mouiel, Saporta-Zimmerman	177	36	13	6
Brachman Cappelletti-Passell, Helgemo-Wold	172	26	10	8
O'Rourke Cheek-Miller, Fredin-Lindkvist	169	20	7	8
Woolsey-Stewart, Lazard-Bramley	155	16	6	8

The total pool was \$182.5K.



Winners of 2002 Teams: Bob Blanchard, Sam Lev, Piotr Gawrys, Krzysztof Jassem

### The Pairs

The Pairs auction saw the pool reach a satisfactory million dollars, although the bidding was somewhat down from the last couple of years, perhaps as a function of a depressed stock market. The good news was that the field continued

to become even more international: this time both Ireland and Egypt made their debuts, more of which anon.

The very first round threw up a huge potential for swing both ways.

Dlr: South	♠ Q92		
Vul: E/W	♥ 954		
	♦ 542		
	♣ 10985		
♠ J		♠ A103	
♥ K8732		♥ AQJ106	
♦ K10963		♦ ---	
♣ A4		♣ QJ732	
	♠ K87654		
	♥ ---		
	♦ AQJ87		
	♣ K6		

Garner-Weinstein achieved a top as N/S when their E/W opponents, Helgemo-Wold, settled in 5♦, which played less than optimally. In fact, it went down four. (As Ralph Katz said, "Pity you forgot to double.") By contrast, Duboin-Ferraro were in the right place at the right time...

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Johnson</i>
			1♠
Pass	1NT(1)	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♠	4NT(2)	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
(1) Semi-forcing; (2) Spade control, forward going			

Johnson took a long time at his final call but eventually decided to trust Meckstroth and not his opponents, always a dangerous move. Meckstroth led a club, hoping this was a Lightner sequence, and now Ferraro could have made an overtrick by playing along crossruff lines. But +1660 was still worth virtually "all the matchpoints" (so to speak).

However the best E/W score was achieved by the Stansby's.

West	North	East	South
<i>Lew</i>	<i>Vinciguerra</i>	<i>JoAnna</i>	<i>Mari</i>
			1♠
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♠	5NT(1)	6♦
6♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	All Pass		
(1) Pick a slam			

As usual, your grandmother's advice to lead trumps against Grand Slams would have made a difference here. On a diamond lead there were three black-suit winners and ten trump tricks. It seems that on a trump lead there is no way to establish clubs and ruff out the spades with trumps three-zero.

Dlr: South	♠ 109		
Vul: N/S	♥ AK84		
	♦ Q103		
	♣ K543		
♠ AKQ2		♠ J6	
♥ 93		♥ QJ10762	
♦ K8742		♦ 6	
♣ A10		♣ Q962	
	♠ 87543		
	♥ 5		
	♦ AJ95		
	♣ J87		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Wildavsky</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	4♦(♥)	Dbl
4♥	All Pass		

Doub as North obediently led a diamond to his partner's ace, and now Wildavsky might be pardoned for not finding the club switch, since it seemed more likely that declarer would pitch spades on clubs than vice versa. Weinstein took the ♠A, ruffed a diamond, and led a heart to the nine, which held. He played a second heart to Doub's king as Wildavsky pitched a spade. Doub now continued the plan of cutting communications by leading a second spade. The best Weinstein could do was to win in dummy and play a third trump. Doub won and, rather than give declarer a chance to guess clubs, found the devastating play of the ♣K. Weinstein could pitch one of dummy's clubs on the ♦K, but since Doub could ruff in on the next spade or diamond, there was an inevitable club loser at the end.

Dlr: North	♠ A8654		
Vul: N/S	♥ K3		
	♦ KQJ4		
	♣ J7		
♠ ---		♠ J1073	
♥ J1094		♥ A872	
♦ A972		♦ 1086	
♣ AQ863		♣ K10	
	♠ KQ92		
	♥ Q65		
	♦ 53		
	♣ 9542		

At one table Cheek-Miller sold out to 4♥ on the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3♥(1)	3♠
4♥	All Pass		
(1) Values			

Cheek found the diamond lead and Miller took the jack to play the ♥K; Erichsen won and returned the suit. Cheek played a third heart and now it was time for some arithmetic. Espen knew that Miller started with five spades, four diamonds and two hearts so since he needed five club tricks to make the hand, the only winning lie of the cards was to find Miller with a doubleton ♣J, making Erichsen's play of finessing the ♣10 not only the sole theoretical chance but also the winning one.

Note the neat play available in 4♥ on a spade lead: You ruff, play a club to the king, ruff a spade, and lead out dummy's top clubs, ruffed low by North and overruffed. Now you ruff another spade, lead the fourth club, ruffed and overruffed again, and ruff the fourth spade. Then cash the ♦A, your ninth trick, at which point you are left with three losing diamonds and the fifth club in dummy and two losing diamonds and the ♥82 in your hand. Meanwhile, South has a small diamond and the ♥Q65 poised over you. But at this point all you have to do is simply lead a diamond from dummy (not the winning club, which would allow South to shorten his trumps and set up a trump coup on you) and while North can take the trick, he has no trump left to play. He must lead a diamond or a spade, and South is forced to ruff his partner's winner and lead into your trump tenace at trick twelve, to give you your tenth trick.

By contrast to the above, Peter Weichsel declared what appeared to be a hopeless 4♠ doubled contract on the N/S cards. On the lead of the ace and another heart, declarer suddenly had some chances. He continued by leading the ♠A followed by a spade to the ten and queen. Next he pitched a club on the ♥Q. Since the defender with four diamonds had discarded one on the second spade, Weichsel could lead a diamond to hand, repeat the spade finesse, and play another diamond and the defense was helpless to stop him. Plus 790 and another routine game scored up.

At the end of the first two sessions out of five, the Irish McGann and Hanlon had a narrow lead, just ahead of Brogeland and Erichsen. Both the pairs on our next deal were also in serious contention.

Dlr: East	♠ K743	
Vul: Both	♥ KJ2	
	♦ 974	
	♣ AJ2	
♠ Q652		♠ J1098
♥ Q3		♥ 1097
♦ A8		♦ KQ652
♣ 97543		♣ 8
	♠ A	
	♥ A8654	
	♦ J103	
	♣ KQ106	

4♥ by South was the normal spot here. Against the

Egyptians, Lionel Wright had a tough defensive play. Cornell kept his side in the game by leading the ♦A and continuing the suit. Wright cashed his diamond winners (Cornell pitching the ♣5, discouraging) and now the defense had to play a fourth diamond to promote the ♥10 via the uppercut. But Wright played a spade (worried that declarer could pitch a losing spade if he had a 1=5=3=4 shape with the ♥Q), and that was back to +420. Should East work out that without the ♥Q West might ruff the third diamond if he had the ♠A to cash, or even cash the ♠A at trick two before playing the second diamond? Equally, on a different day would West encourage a club by his discard if he held the ♣K10? It was very surprising that the only table where 4♥ was beaten legitimately was where Glubok as West could pitch a discouraging ♠2, and Mahaffey then followed instructions and played a fourth diamond. At no fewer than two tables East worked out to play a fourth diamond, and West pitched rather than overruffing the ♥6, trying to persuade declarer that his partner had the ♥Q—but that was very much the wrong move today.

This next deal had a certain element of piquancy to it.

Dlr: East	♠ AKQ	
Vul: Both	♥ J1076	
	♦ J64	
	♣ J72	
♠ J		♠ 97543
♥ A95		♥ K82
♦ K8753		♦ Q9
♣ 9543		♣ K108
	♠ 10862	
	♥ Q43	
	♦ A102	
	♣ AQ6	

When regular partners meet at the table as opponents, there is more than the usual amount at stake. N/S bid to 3NT (1♣-1♥; 1NT-3NT) and Hamman, sitting West, led a diamond. Zia put up the queen (should one play partner for AKxxx or K10xxx by the way?) and Andy Robson won the ace. Now Robson went to the ♠A and led a low heart from dummy. Zia hopped up with the king (nice play!), cleared the diamonds and Robson had only eight tricks.

Of course if Zia ducks the ♥K declarer has his ninth winner in due course via the club finesse, or he can set up the hearts with West no longer having an entry to the diamonds. Might Zia have had a tougher task if declarer had led the ♥J from dummy? Who can say?

The leaders at the end of the third session, Bramley and Lazard, were one of many pairs to run into huge problems on this horrible misfit.



Dlr: West	♠ AJ96		
Vul: Both	♥ AQJ973		
	♦ A4		
	♣ 4		
♠ Q10874		♠ 532	
♥ K4		♥ 10852	
♦ 983		♦ 652	
♣ K97		♣ J83	
	♠ K		
	♥ 6		
	♦ KQJ107		
	♣ AQ10652		

Their auction quite reasonably started: 1♦-1♥; 2♣-2♠; 3♣-3♥; 4♣-4♦; 4♥-4♠. At this point Lazard, South, jumped to 5NT to offer a choice of slams. Bramley thought this was Grand Slam force and jumped to 7♥, down only one on the mildly fortunate lie of the hearts.

Still, everyone was going to have problems here. Perhaps 6♦ is the best slam: On a spade lead you win, play ♣A and ruff a club high, draw trumps, and rely on a favorable club position, surviving with a three-three split or either defender holding a doubleton jack or king, a 60% shot. 6♥ looks to be somewhat less attractive, but appears to be a 56% contract or so.

Chemla-Cronier bid: 1♣-1♥; 2♦-2♥ (forcing); 3♦-3♠; 3NT-4♦; 4NT (Key Card)-5♣; 6♦. On a trump lead declarer duly ruffed a club in dummy and found the cards cooperating. By contrast, Mike Moss also reached 6♦ against the Stansbys. He took the trump lead in dummy, finessed in clubs, won the trump return, drew trumps, and then had to get the hearts right. The finesse seemed to give better odds (three-three hearts or four-two with the king onside as opposed to three-three hearts with the king wrong) but Mike took the ruffing finesse and went down two.

Gene Freed reached 7♦ here, and on a trump lead thought he could have made the contract. He can only make the hand by playing on clubs if the suit is three-three with the king right, so an alternative approach is to play on hearts: Win the diamond in hand and finesse in hearts, unblock the ♦A and ruff a heart. Then finesse clubs, draw trumps, and overtake the ♠K back to dummy to run the hearts to pitch your four losing clubs.

At the end of four sessions, Lew and JoAnna Stansby were in front—but it was desperately close at the top. And in fact a pair who burst through to take the lead were outside the money as the set started. By chance your reporter sat down to watch the Russians play the last round—but it was their opponents he should have been focusing on.



Dlr: West	♠ QJ843		
Vul: E/W	♥ AK104		
	♦ K		
	♣ Q65		
♠ K10		♠ A9765	
♥ J9862		♥ Q753	
♦ QJ1052		♦ 4	
♣ 7		♣ J82	
	♠ 2		
	♥ ---		
	♦ A98763		
	♣ AK10943		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Bobby Levin, sitting West, led the ♠10. Declarer covered this in reflex style and the defense played two rounds of spades. Declarer now needed to ruff a diamond in dummy. Not being gifted with second sight, he unblocked the ♦K, crossed back to hand in trumps, and ruffed a diamond low, thus going down one, like most of the rest of the room. Note what happens if South ducks the ♠10 in dummy, which happened at four or so tables. East will play his partner for a singleton spade, so he will overtake to try to give him a spade ruff. Contract made! That deal turned the event; had the board gone the other way Levin-Weinstein would have been fourth and the Russians would have won.

While at double-dummy only a diamond lead sets the hand (it takes an entry out of dummy which prevents the spades being established and cashed), in practice only the ♠10 gives declarer a chance. I guess the only thing that proves is that it's better to be lucky than good.

That may sound dramatic but it was not the end of the excitement. Greco and Hampson were the beneficiary of the ♠10 lead from David Berkowitz. Greco ducked the lead and Larry Cohen won his ace, played for the ruff, and conceded 920.

After that Greco-Hampson were in the lead, but only for one deal. Put yourself in Berkowitz's position on the following hand. He reached 4♥ after opening 1♥ and hearing a double on his left.

		Berkowitz
♠ AJ98		♠ 732
♥ 108643		♥ AKQJ5
♦ K53		♦ J
♣ 7		♣ K1043

He won the trump lead in hand and led the  $\diamond J$  to the king and ace. Back came a trump, his LHO pitching a diamond. The percentage play in spades might be to lead low to the nine, but Berkowitz tested clubs first by advancing the ten from his hand. LHO flickered, then won the jack and tried to cash the  $\diamond Q$ . Berkowitz inferred that his RHO had a club honor, else the  $\clubsuit J$  would have been taken immediately. Accordingly, his RHO must have the  $\spadesuit KQ$  for his double.

On that basis, he led a spade to the jack. Well done, as this was the only winning line available since RHO has  $\spadesuit 10x$ . While making the game was only worth 82 cross-IMPs to Berkowitz, had he gone one down he would have lost 262. The swing on this deal would have been 344, which would have translated into the narrowest of wins for Greco-Hampson—by 10 cross-IMPs.

<u>Final results: Pairs</u>	<u>cross-IMPs</u>	POOL		
		<u>Auction</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Price</u>
Levin-Weinstein	2982	243,967	32,760	30K
Sadek-Elahmadi	2752	156,193	21,060	13K
Greco-Hampson	2648	104,129	14,040	33K
Gromov-Petrunin	2429	78,097	10,530	28K
Bramley-Lazard	2416	69,419	9,360	21K

With 60 pairs, the real IMP score equates to 103IMPs on 135 deals (45 three-board rounds). The total pool was 1,075K. Special congratulations to the second placed pair, who should open a few eyes to the talent outside the USA.



Winners of 2002 Pairs: Steve Weinstein – Bobby Levin

## 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 10, 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 is expected.) If you wish to bid on a pair you may do so by entering the amount of your bid on the pair's card and signing your name opposite the bid amount (minimum bid = \$1000).

These bids will be considered binding, just as if they 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.