



World Bridge Productions

Presents the

Cavendish^{wbp}

Invitational

Bulletin Number 1

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

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Welcome to the 27th Annual Cavendish Invitational

(If it seems like *deja vu*—it's only the *Mirage*)

World Bridge Productions welcomes you to the 2001 Cavendish Teams and Pairs and the World Bridge Productions Pairs. This year the e-bridge people will provide Internet Vugraph coverage of the Teams and Pairs (at e-bridgemastr.com). The on-site proceedings will once again feature host and auctioneer, the inimitable George Jacobs.

This year's five-session Cavendish Invitational Pairs features the usual star-studded field (see p. 3) while the three-session Cavendish Teams anticipates twenty-six entrants (see p. 3). Of course the three-session WBP Pairs sports its own field of stars (see p. 2). Page 2 presents a complete schedule of this year's tournament.

The Cavendish field, as always, is truly international in

scope, as so many of our North American tournaments have become. Players are here from all over the world (sorry, still no one from Antarctica) and include many of the world's top players, including current international, zonal and world title holders.

It's good to see so many friends and familiar faces. In the spirit of friendship and good bridge we welcome you to the 2001 Cavendish Invitational. We wish everyone a fun and successful experience. Enjoy the *Mirage*, Las Vegas and good bridge to all!

— John Roberts, Bob Hamman, Robert Blanchard and Bill Rosenbaum

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 12, 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 been made in the live auction. If your bid is not topped in either the pre- or live auctions you will become the owner of the pair and have all of the attendant rights and responsibilities. Remember, each pair must buy back 10% of their purchase price and may buy back up to 40% of themselves if they are so inclined.

Please confirm your bids with the appropriate parties at the Registration Desk.

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. If you have any questions about your own or your opponents' methods, the person to see is Barry Rigal.

Schedule

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Wednesday, May 9th	11:30 AM	Opening Brunch Banquet	St. Croix A&B
	12:15 PM	Auction, Teams	St. Croix A&B
	1:30 PM	1 st Session, Teams	Montego A, B & C
	8:00 PM	2 nd Session, Teams	Montego A, B & C
Thursday, May 10th	12:00 PM	3 rd (final) Session, Teams	Montego A, B & C
	6:30 PM	Cocktail Party	Montego D, E & F
	7:15 PM	Auction, Cavendish Pairs	Montego D, E & F
Friday, May 11th	12:30 PM	1 st Session, Pairs	Montego A, B & C
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, Pairs	Montego A, B & C
Saturday, May 12th	10:30 AM	WBP Brunch (all invited)	St. Croix A&B
	11:00 AM	WBP Auction	St. Croix A&B
	12:30 PM	3 rd Session, Pairs	Montego A, B & C
	12:30 PM	1 st Session, WBP Pairs	Montego D, E & F
	7:30 PM	4 th Session, Pairs	Montego A, B & C
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, WBP Pairs	Montego D, E & F
Sunday, May 13th	12:30 PM	5 th Session, Pairs	Montego A, B & C
	12:30 PM	3 rd Session, WBP Pairs	Montego D, E & F
	5:00 PM	Awards Ceremony and Closing Cocktail Party	St. Croix A&B

Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2001

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

1 Rob Crawford – Dan Jacob	20 Barry Schaefer – Colby Vernay
2 Jeff Roman – Glenn Lublin	21 Russ Samuel – Shawn Samuel
3 L'Ecuiller – Menachi	22 Louise Childs – Al Childs
4 Nell Cahn – Bill Cook	23 Amadeo Llopart – Juan Ventin
5 Mickey Friedman – Harold Lilie	24 Nels Ericksen – Marjorie Michellin
6 Lou Ann O'Rourke – Mike Cappelletti, Sr.	25 Ken Kranyak – Keith Wolff
7 Reese Milner – Marc Jacobus	26 Richie Coren – Fred Hamilton
8 David Seibert – Alan Seibert	27 Flo Rotman – Dan Rotman
9 Jill Levin – Larry Cohen	28 Bob La Fleur – Jan George
10 Wayne Chu – Fy Zhong	29 Diana Miller – H Lussky
11 Leonard Ernst – Gene Simpson	30 Bob Crossley – Roger Passat
12 Disa Cheek – Judy Wadas	31 Pinhas Romik – Stelio di Bello
13 Joe Jabon – John Garrison	32 Bill Doroshow – Nate Ward
14 Shelia Ekelblad – Mark Molson	33 Simon Kantor – Murray Melton
15 Roger Lord –	34 Petra Hamman – Nancy Passell
16 Phil Becker – Kumar Bhatia	35 Bruce Ferguson – Carlton Buckley
17 Srikanth Kodayam – Leszek Rabiega	36 Marshall Miles – Vic Chernoff
18 Lynn Baker – Irina Levitina	37 Jo Morse – Kyle Larsen
19 Cary Keller – Bob Morris	38 Ina Demme – Sheri Weinstock

Entrants for the Cavendish Teams 2001

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

- 1 **Rose Meltzer**, Peter Weischel, Kyle Larsen, Chip Martel, Lou Stansby
- 2 **Lu Ann O'Rourke**, Curtis Cheek, Billy Miller, Robert Levin, Steve Weinstein
- 3 **Angellini (npc)**, Juan C. Ventin, Amadeo Llopart, Claudio Nunes, Fulvio Fantoni
- 4 **Kit Woolsey**, Fred Stewart, Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson
- 5 **Perry Johnson**, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson
- 6 **Anton Maas**, Ramon Verhees, Jan Jansma, Vincent Ramondt
- 7 **Malcolm Brachman**, Mike Passel, Eddie Wold, Ralph Katz, John Mohan
- 8 **Ishmael Del'Monte**, Neville Eber, Ashley Bach, Michael Cornell, Craig Gower
- 9 **Roy Welland**, Bjorn Fallenius, Brad Moss, Fred Gittleman, Howard Weinstein, Steve Garner
- 10 **George Steiner**, Mark Lair, Gaylor Kasle, Bobby Wolff
- 11 **Russ Ekeblad**, Michael Seamon, Sheila Ekeblad, Mark Molson
- 12 **Sam Lev**, Zia Mahmood, Geir Helgemo, Billy Eisenberg
- 13 **John Onstott**, Chris Compton, Jim Robison, Jon Wittes, Ross Grabel, Roger Bates
- 14 **Richard Finberg**, Gary Cohler, Sidney Lazard, Bart Bramley
- 15 **Grant Baze**, Michael Whitman, Paul Lewis, Linda Lewis
- 16 **Seymon Deutsch**, Paul Soloway, Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Ron Smith, Billy Cohen
- 17 **Steve Levinson**, Barnett Shenkin, Jean-Christophe Quantin, Michel Abecasis
- 18 **Piotr Gawrys**, Amos Kaminski, Jacek Pszczola, Michel Kwiecien, Christian Mari, Albert Faigenbaum
- 19 **Richie Schwartz**, Drew Casen, Guido Ferraro, Giorgio Duboin
- 20 **Carlton Buckley**, Bruce Ferguson, Michael Moss, Magnus Lindkvist
- 21 **Roseanne Pollack**, Bill Pollack, Sharon Osberg, Mark Feldman
- 22 **Reese Milner**, Marc Jacobus, Richie Coren, ?
- 23 **Pinhas Romik**, Stelio di Bello, Gene Freed, Jeff Olson

Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs 2001

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

Pair #	Pair #
1 Eddie Wold – John Mohan	26 Sam Lev – Geir Helgemo
2 Michel Abecasis – Jean-Christophe Quantin	27 Christian Mari – Albert Faigenbaum
3 Eric Greco – Geoff T. Hampson	28 Bill Pollack – Rozanne Pollack
4 Steve Robinson – Peter Boyd	29 Curtis Cheek – Billy Miller
5 Linda Lewis – Paul Jay Lewis	30 Chris Convery – Craig Gower
6 Ishmael Del'Monte – Neville Eber	31 Mike Passel – Malcolm Brachman
7 Ron Smith – Billy Cohen	32 Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes
8 Russ Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	33 Drew Casen – Richard Schwartz
9 Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell	34 Barnett Schenkin – Steve Levinson
10 Brad Moss – Fred Gittleman	35 Michel Kwiecien – Jacek Pszczola
11 Adam Wildavsky – Dan Morse	36 John Onstott – Chris Compton
12 Bart Bramley – Sidney Lazard	37 Zia Mahmood – Billy Eisenberg
13 Gene Freed – Jim Robison	38 Paul Chemla – Alain Levy
14 Guido Ferraro – Giorgio Duboin	39 Mark Feldman – Sharon Osberg
15 Jeff Meckstroth – Perry Johnson	40 Boye Brogland – Espen Erichsen
16 Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	41 Paul Soloway – Seymon Deutsch
17 Jan Jansma – Louk Verhees	42 Michael Moss – Magnus Lindkvist
18 George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	43 Mark Lair – George Steiner
19 Roy Welland – Bjorn Fallenius	44 Piotyr Gawrys – Amos Kaminski
20 Harry Tudor – Larry Robbins	45 Rose Meltzer – Peter Weichsel
21 Grant Baze – Mike Whitman	46 Bobby Wolff – Gaylor Kasle
22 Dan Mordecai – Roger Bates	47 Jon Wittes – Ross Grabel
23 Howard Weinstein – Steve Garner	48 Alfredo Versace – Valerio Guibilo
24 Nick Nickell – Bob Hamman	49 Eric Rodwell – Martin Fleisher
25 Anton Mass – Vincent Ramondt	50 Robert Levin – Steve Weinstein

Last Year's Cavendish

(Adapted from articles by Barry Rigal)

The Teams:

The format of the draw saw the top seeded team meeting the second most expensive team in the first round. When Hamman took on Team Brachman, the match saw only two significant swings, both going to Hamman. However the action on the first deal was interesting at other tables too.

Bd: 2	♠ A96		
Dlr: West	♥ J		
Vul: N/S	♦ KJ953		
	♣ 8754		
♠ 842		♠ J10753	
♥ KQ762		♥ A943	
♦ Q1076		♦ 4	
♣ 3		♣ AJ6	
	♠ KQ		
	♥ 1085		
	♦ A82		
	♣ KQ1092		
West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Passell</i>	<i>Chagas</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

At the first table Geir took an excellent view to remove 3NT to 5♣—his spade length suggested that 5♣ would play well while hearts might be a danger suit in 3NT. Chagas won the spade lead and ducked a heart. He won the spade return, ruffed a heart, played a club to the king, ruffed his last heart, then led dummy's last club and claimed. In the other room Wold-Soloway did not judge as well as Chagas-Helgemo. Hamman opened 1♠ in third seat and Wold, South, neither overcalled 2♣ nor balanced when 2♠ came back around to him. When 2♠ made +110 Hamman picked up 12 imps.

Elsewhere, N/S got more bidding to contend with. Michael Cornell opened 2♥ as West, raised to 4♥ of course by Lionel Wright and passed out. On a diamond lead to the ace South shifted to a top club to the ace. Cornell led the ♠J from dummy which was covered by the queen as he followed low. Now North produced a less-than-optimal defense by overtaking with the ace to play a club through dummy's jack-six. Declarer ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps, then passed the ♠8 to score up +420, which went nicely with the +600 recorded by Wigoder-Courtney who were in in 5♣ as N/S at the other table.

Andy Robson found himself in an insalubrious spot here after the auction:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Shugart</i>		<i>Robson</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
Dbl	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Andy was lucky enough to avoid the heart lead but was far from out of the woods. He won the spade lead in hand with the king and tried the sucker-punch of leading a low heart toward dummy's stiff jack. West won the queen and rather naively returned a spade. Robson won and tried the ♣Q, which lost to the ace, and a third spade cleared the suit. Now Robson cashed the ♦AK in the hopes that the queen would fall. When West discarded, he guessed to finesse in clubs to score nine tricks.

Seymon Deutsch is used to seeing Bobby Wolff extract a quart out of a pint pot, which perhaps explains why Wolff is called on to perform the odd miracle from time to time.

Bd: 16	♠ A854		
Dlr: East	♥ K43		
Vil: E/W	♦ A9		
	♣ A1076		
♠ KQ3		♠ 62	
♥ A105		♥ Q9876	
♦ K632		♦ J85	
♣ Q95		♣ J83	
	♠ J1097		
	♥ J2		
	♦ Q1074		
	♣ K42		
West	North	East	South
<i>v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Wolff</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Wolff received a club lead to the six and eight, which he won in hand to advance the ♠J, covered all around. Now a spade back to the ten and king allowed the defense to exit with a third spade. Declarer played a club to the ten and jack and East returned a heart to the ten and king. Wolff cashed the ♣AK and a fourth club as both defenders pitched diamonds, then came to hand with the third spade. On the last spade West reduced to ♥Ax and ♦Kx and East was squeezed. If he came down to two hearts and two diamonds Wolff would exit with a heart and collect two diamonds in the end. So East bared his ♦J and Wolff led the ♦Q out of his hand to pin the jack and collect his two diamond tricks to make his contract. As an aside, should West have worked out on the early heart switch to rise with the ace and return the suit? That breaks up the endplay. But if South wins the fourth spade in hand he has no heart exit,

while if he wins the fourth spade in dummy East can safely come down to just one diamond, since there are no entries to the South hand for the diamond finesse. At the other table 2♠ collected +140 so this represented a gain of 7 imps rather than a loss of 5 imps for the Deutsch team.

British interest in the Cavendish this year was somewhat limited. In the teams Andy Robson playing with Rita Shugart was perhaps the main medal hope. After a somewhat uninspired first day they put together three nice wins to narrowly miss out on second place. They started a charge toward the medals aided by this early deal on day two, where their teammates, Peter Fredin and Magnus Lindkvist of Sweden, landed on their feet very nicely after an accident in the auction.

Bd: 2	♠ Q9		
Dlr: East	♥ 9532		
Vul: N/S	♦ K10975		
	♣ K8		
♠ 87		♠ A6	
♥ —		♥ A108764	
♦ J86432		♦ AQ	
♣ J6542		♣ A73	
	♠ KJ105432		
	♥ KQJ		
	♦ —		
	♣ Q109		
West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>		<i>Lindkvist</i>	
		1♣(1)	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dbl	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dbl
All Pass			

4NT for the minors was not exactly what Lindkvist wanted to hear but he picked his three-card minor and hoped for the best. On the ♥K lead he made the most of his rather poor chances by pitching a spade to win the ♥A. He ruffed a heart to dummy and successfully finessed the diamond—well, sort of. South ruffed and led a spade. Lindkvist won the ace and ruffed another heart and was delighted with the results, but he was not yet out of the woods. He could settle for one down by cashing the ♣A and playing on side suits or he could try for the contract, in which case something very bad might happen if the trumps did not behave. Oh well, faint heart never won fair lady and Magnus took his life in his hands by playing ace and another club. When the trumps fell he had eleven tricks with the heart suit established. Had hearts not split, he would not have taken another trick and gone six down!

The event finished up as a decisive win for Perry Johnson (one of Jeff Meckstroth's regular partners, especially in the Cavendish). They played as a team of five (with Rodwell

and Hampson-Greco) and took the event with a match to spare.

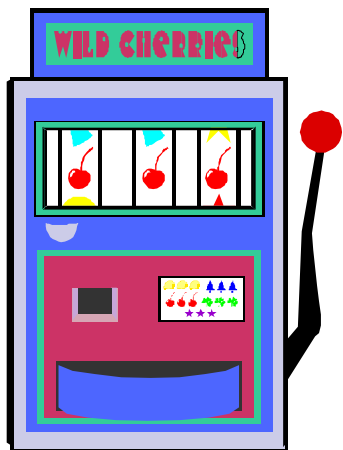
Team	Score	Auction	Player
1. Johnson (Greco-Hampson Meckwell)	197	\$93K	\$17K
2. Levin (Weinstein Berkowitz-Cohen)	175	\$62K	\$11K
3. Shugart (Robson Fredin-Lindkvist)	172	\$45K	\$8K

The Pairs:

On the following deal Gaylor Kastle was one of a very few declarers to bring home 6♥.

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

On an unopposed sequence Kastle declared 6♥ as South. (It might be better not to ask why but it involved North mis-sorting his hand.) He received the ♠Q lead, won the king, and drew four rounds of trumps as East pitched a couple of diamonds and a couple of spades. Now the simple analysis might be to assume that since West has four hearts and East none, West, who must hold the ♣K to give you a chance, is more likely to have the doubleton king than the king-ten. However, Gaylor saw there was no need to commit himself at once; he carefully found out more about the hand by playing ace and a second diamond to the queen and saw the ♠9 discarded on his left—after some thought. Now the odds changed dramatically. Since his LHO had started with five red cards and his RHO with six, the odds favored the double finesse in clubs rather than playing for the doubleton king onside—and that's what he did to bring home the contract.



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

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

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

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

Sometimes the most innocent of deals produce swings. Guido Ferraro played the normal 4♠ on a top diamond lead. That looks comfortable enough does it not, just looking at the N/S cards? Eddie Wold led a top diamond, then shifted to the ♣K. Ferraro won and took the spade finesse (wouldn't you?) and Wold won and led a second diamond, forcing Ferraro to ruff in dummy. Stuck in dummy, he could only lead hearts or clubs, allowing one defender to get a ruff in

one suit and give his partner a ruff in the other. Down one and it's hard to see that declarer did anything wrong. The alternative line of cashing to the ♠AK might fail if trumps are four-one.

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

Bd: 1	♠ Q932		
Dlr: North	♥ A1064		
Vul: None	♦ AJ4		
	♣ 107		
♠ 65		♠ KJ74	
♥ KQJ9753		♥ 82	
♦ 10953		♦ 6	
♣ —		♣ AJ8642	
	♠ A108		
	♥ —		
	♦ KQ872		
	♣ KQ953		
West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
	1♥	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the context of a four-card major system where 1♥ could have been based on ♥5432, the 3♥ bid checked for a heart stop. Jason bid 3NT, of course, and this handled for ten tricks when Hackett could bring in the clubs easily enough. Not surprisingly, this turned out to be a good result. Many of the field drove to minor-suit games and found that the bad splits made life very tough indeed.

A couple of deals later, Jeff Meckstroth and Boye Brogeland had the chance for a rather unusual ducking play.

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

♣ J76

When South opens a weak 2♠ the normal continuation is for East to reopen with a double and for West to jump to 3NT, since the penalty available from passing is likely to be unsatisfactory at the vulnerability. Both Boye Brogeland and Jeff Meckstroth were confronted with this position and on the ♠J lead they made the first critical decision to duck. When a spade was continued they pitched a heart from dummy and the defence did well to lay off the ♠A and let declarer score the trick cheaply. Now the declarers drove out the ♦A and the defense won the third round. What next? At one of the featured tables Levy now led a heart against Meckstroth (the jack might even be the right card but Alain led a small heart) and Chemla cashed his two major-suit aces. However, Jeff had the rest. At the other table a low club brought the clubs in for no losers. Perhaps the best defense here is for North to shift to the ♣Q on winning the ♦A—but declarer might still survive if he read the position correctly. Would you?



After two sessions Howard Weinstein and Steve Garner, a pair who have had some success in Auction Pairs since they won the inaugural TGR's pairs, were in the lead. Here they landed a solid body blow to Eisenberg-Hamilton, who were hot on their heels in the early going.

Bd: 5	♠ AJ8		
Dlr: North	♥ KJ874		
Vul: N/S	♦ J		
	♣ Q1098		
♠ 74		♠ 106	
♥ 3		♥ A9652	
♦ K9432		♦ AQ87	
♣ AJ742		♣ 63	
	♠ KQ9532		
	♥ Q10		
	♦ 1065		
	♣ K5		

After a weak 2♠ raised to 4♠, Hamilton, as West, who had

given some thought to acting in the passout seat, led a heart. Eisenberg took the ace and returned the nine—obviously suit preference for diamonds. Hamilton ruffed. He could have cashed the ♣A, of course, but he was worried that declarer might have a void in clubs. He could see that there was no necessity to lead the ♣A if he could convey the message that he had the ace, and let his partner decide what to do.

After some thought he returned the ♦2, trying to impart the suggestion that a heart play was not essential and that he had the significant card in the lower suit if that should be relevant. Eisenberg did not get the message and played a third heart. Garner ruffed high, drew only one trump, then cashed dummy's hearts to pitch his clubs and cross-ruffed for +620. So who is to blame? Hamilton obviously overestimated his partner's degree of subtlety on the deal but should Eisenberg have worked out that his chance of finding partner with the ♠K was nil? Would he not have played a high diamond if a heart play now was essential?

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

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

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

♣ ---

Abecassis now played the ♠7 to the king and a spade to his ace, on which Moss dropped the ♠Q! He was trying to look like a man with the ♦Jxxx but Abecassis refused to finesse in diamonds, preferring to play the suit from the top on the basis that Brad was capable of the false-card. And right he was!

One of the other pairs fighting for top honors was Bart Bramley-Sidney Lazard. Bart drew an interesting inference to bring home this delicate 4♦ contract:

Bd: 16	♠ Q1096		
Dlr: West	♥ A954		
Vul: E/W	♦ 104		
	♣ A108		
♠ J82		♠ 3	
♥ Q63		♥ K108	
♦ KJ76		♦ AQ9853	
♣ 953		♣ KQ6	
	♠ AK754		
	♥ J72		
	♦ 2		
	♣ J742		
West	North	East	South
<i>Lazard</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Wright</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦	3♦	4♦	All Pass

On the ♠K lead and continuation Bramley put up the ♠J to force the queen and confirm the location of the spade honors. He ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps, and led a club to the king. Now came a third diamond to dummy and a second club. Cornell took the ace and played a third club. Bramley won and paused to count up the hand. Since North clearly had both round aces to justify his cue-bid and had also shown up with the ♠Q, he was less likely to have the ♥J; he might have opened with that, playing weak notrumps. So Bart advanced the ♥10 and whether Wright covered or not, Bramley had his tenth trick.

Going into the fourth session Weinstein and Garner had a big lead over their challengers. Out of the pack emerged Fleisher and Rodwell, aided by results like this:

Bd: 3	♠ A72		
Dlr: South	♥ 107542		
Vul: E/W	♦ K8		
	♣ 986		
♠ K63		♠ J1085	
♥ A9		♥ K863	
♦ A96532		♦ J74	
♣ 73		♣ K5	

♠ Q94
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ AQJ1042

Whatever range notrump N/S were playing, that South hands seems to fit it. While Brad Moss, at the table I was watching, elected to pass Fred Gitelman's opening bid and collected 90 for his pains, not all N/S pairs did so well. Where Fleisher-Rodwell were playing Zia, Hamman as North transferred to 2♥. Fleisher led ace and a second diamond and Zia won the king and led a heart to the jack and ace. Fleisher continued the good work by leading a third diamond and Zia ruffed in dummy, led a club to the king and ace, and then led a second trump. Rodwell won this and could see that he might need to take two spade tricks quickly if the clubs were going to run. So he shifted to the ♠10, hoping for this precise layout. Zia covered with the queen and when Fleisher played the king Zia ducked it, assuming Fleisher held the king-jack. Back came a second spade and Zia was down whatever he did now. Had Rodwell shifted to the ♠J, Zia would surely have wrapped up eight tricks.

Another pair doing well were Berkowitz and Cohen, certainly one of the pre-tournament favorites. However, Michael Seamon found a way to get one over them on this deal:

Bd: 17	♠ AQ763		
Dlr: North	♥ KJ962		
Vul: None	♦ 3		
	♣ J6		
♠ K4		♠ J9852	
♥ 105		♥ AQ4	
♦ AKJ762		♦ 98	
♣ 982		♣ KQ5	
	♠ 10		
	♥ 873		
	♦ Q1054		
	♣ A10743		
West	North	East	South
<i>S. Ekeblad</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♦	2♥	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Michael Seamon found an excellent line to bring home 3NT here. On an informative auction Berkowitz led the ♥8 and Seamon thought for a long while, then put up the ten and ducked the king. Seamon won the next heart and advanced the ♦8. When Berkowitz ducked, Seamon ran it and later finessed again in diamonds to bring home nine tricks. Should David have worked out to block the diamond suit by covering the ♦8? If partner had the stiff nine this would not have been a success. But the pause at trick one might have

persuaded him that this was precisely what declarer was planning to do, and that should perhaps have directed him towards the correct defense.

When Bocchi-Duboin defended 3NT Bocchi led a club. Declarer had to duck this and the defense shifted to the ♥J. Declarer covered and now dislodged the ♣A himself. Back came a second heart, then the ♦8, covered by Bocchi and now 3NT had to go down.

Bd: 22	♠ K752		
Dlr: East	♥ Q109		
Vul: E/W	♦ J65		
	♣ 874		
♠ AQJ1098		♠ 3	
♥ 632		♥ K4	
♦ A		♦ KQ108432	
♣ K105		♣ AQ2	
	♠ 64		
	♥ AJ875		
	♦ 97		
	♣ J963		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
		1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Bob Hamman did very well to create a position for his side here. His 4NT gave Zia the chance to opt for diamonds, and on a club lead Zia put in the ten. Then he cashed the ♦A, came to hand in clubs, and drew trumps. At this point in the hand he knew that Geir had the ♥A and ♣J, so Chagas was a favorite to hold the ♠K (and, in addition, if this were the case 6NT would go down). So Zia took the ruffing finesse in spades and made thirteen tricks.

George Jacobs and Ralph Katz were not dominating the event to this point but George found a very nice play here. Norberto Bocchi (East) reached 6♦ on an unopposed sequence on VuGraph and received a club lead from Jacobs. Bocchi won this in hand and played a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed another spade with the ♦10, then cashed the ♦KQ. When he led a club to dummy, intending to insert the ten to create an extra dummy entry to finish ruffing out the spades and then cash them, George crossed him up by inserting the ♣J to block the suit. Now Bocchi needed the heart finesse and when it failed he was set one trick.

Garner-Weinstein also reached 6♦, on an unopposed sequence. Weinstein got the ♥A lead and thus did not have to guess spades. Courtney played 6NT as East on an unopposed auction and received a low spade lead. North ducked to get a better picture of the hand and Courtney

gave him one by showing his hand a moment later and claiming twelve tricks!

Going into the last session, Weinstein and Garner held a 500 cross-IMP lead (about 20 real IMPs) over Fleisher-Rodwell with only Berkowitz-Cohen in serious contention. Abecassis-Quantin were fighting hard for third place. This board decided the minor placings:

Bd: 18	♠ J		
Dlr: East	♥ K10962		
Vul: None	♦ A763		
	♣ 1092		
♠ 106		♠ KQ8754	
♥ Q874		♥ J53	
♦ J4		♦ 82	
♣ AJ865		♣ Q3	
	♠ A932		
	♥ A		
	♦ KQ1095		
	♣ K74		
West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Abecassis</i>
		2♠	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With eight top tricks in 3NT, one would expect South to find a ninth trick somewhere, especially given that West's natural lead is the ♠10 or a club. Larry Cohen did indeed lead the ♠10, to the jack and queen, ducked. Berkowitz now did well to find the heart shift, and declarer cashed three diamonds ending in dummy, then led the ♥10 to Berkowitz's jack. Now came the ♣Q, covered by the king and ducked. This was the ending:

	♠ —		
	♥ K106		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 109		
♠ 6		♠ K875	
♥ Q8		♥ 5	
♦ ----		♦ —	
♣ AJ8		♣ 3	
	♠ A9		
	♥ ----		
	♦ 105		
	♣ 74		

At this point Abecassis cashed his three winners in hand and led a club, but Cohen claimed the rest. Look what happens if declarer cashes the ♠A and leads his low diamond to dummy. If Cohen pitches a heart that suit comes in and if he lets go of a club, declarer exits with a club and collects two heart winners in the end on West's forced play at trick 12.

In fact, the battle for the event tightened up at once. Weinstein-Garner started off with a catastrophic system accident when they forgot their defence to a strong 2♣ opening and went for 1400. Thereafter they never seriously threatened to break average. That left the path clear for Rodwell-Fleisher, and with two rounds to go the event was

level. This board gave Rodwell the chance to win the event and naturally he grabbed it with both hands.

Bd: 18	♠ AK8		
Dlr: South	♥ 962		
Vul: N/S	♦ AK92		
	♣ AQ2		
♠ Q3		♠ J65	
♥ AQ8543		♥ KJ7	
♦ 65		♦ J83	
♣ 543		♣ KJ86	
	♠ 109742		
	♥ 10		
	♦ Q1074		
	♣ 1097		
West	North	East	South
	Fleisher		Rodwell
			Pass
2♥	Dbf	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbf	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Rodwell is never one to hold back when game is in the offing, and he had something in reserve for his jump to 4♠ at his third turn. Best defense is a club lead: maybe East should

have bid 3♣ over the double to make life easier for his partner. Still, perhaps West's choice of the ♥A, in order to determine which minor to shift to, is a reasonable one. Unluckily for him the club shift at trick two came too late. Rodwell played low as East took the jack and exited with a second heart. Rodwell ruffed and cashed the top spades, ruffed a heart, then cashed four diamonds, ending in dummy. Now he led a trump, and in the two-card ending East had to play clubs into dummy's tenace to concede the tenth trick.

In the end, the margin of 230 cross-IMPs (or 109 real IMPs) represented the clearest win in the event for five years: the event has always gone down to the last board, and even on this occasion the winners needed three good results at the end to hold off their challengers.

Players	Score	Auction Pool	Player Pool	Auction Price
Fleisher-Rodwell	3669	\$263K	\$30K	\$17K
Garner-Weinstein	3444	\$169K	\$19K	\$31K
Cohen-Berkowitz	2801	\$112K	\$13K	\$49K
Zia-Hamman	2713	\$85K	\$10K	\$49K
Abecassis-Quantin	2641	\$75K	\$8K	\$15K
Chemla-Levy	2291	\$66K	\$7K	\$40K
Duboin-Bocchi	1739	\$56K	\$6K	\$51K

In real IMP terms, the winners' score is equivalent to picking up about 1 IMP a board.