



# World Bridge Productions

Presents the

# Cavendish<sup>wbp</sup>

## Invitational

Bulletin Number 1

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

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# Welcome to Las Vegas — and the 26th Annual Cavendish Invitational

World Bridge Productions welcomes you to the 2000 Cavendish Teams and Pairs and the World Bridge Productions (WBP) Pairs. This year's tournament features the 1st Annual Cavendish Handicapped Golf Tournament, the first-ever live Internet broadcast of the Teams and Pairs auctions by ChampionshipBridge.com, featuring auctioneer and host George Jacobs, and a newly expanded VuGraph show presented by E-Bridge, featuring commentators Sammy Kehela, Eric Kokish and Bobby Wolff.

This year's Cavendish Invitational Pairs is a five-session event featuring a star-studded field (roster on p. 4). The three-session Cavendish Teams boasts a 24-team field (roster on p. 3) while the three-session WBP Pairs sports its own field of stars, the largest in the event's three-year history (roster on p. 3). A complete schedule of this year's

tournament can be found on page 2.

The Cavendish field is truly international in scope, as so many of our North American tournaments have become in recent years. Players are here from all over the world (sorry, still no one from Antarctica) including 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 2000 Cavendish Invitational. We wish everyone a fun and successful experience. Enjoy the Desert Inn, 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 13, 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 (on the second floor of the Country Club, near the playing area) 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

## 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 10th	11:30 AM	Opening Brunch Banquet	Country Club, Ballroom 2
	12:15 PM	Auction, Teams	Country Club, Ballroom 2
	1:30 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, Teams	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	8:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, Teams	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
Thursday, May 11th	12:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> (final) Session, Teams	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	6:30 PM	Cocktail Party	Veranda above Hotel Casino
	7:45 PM	Auction, Cavendish Pairs	Veranda above Hotel Casino
Friday, May 12th	12:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	7:30 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
Saturday, May 13th	11:00 AM	WBP Brunch (all invited)	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	11:30 AM	WBP Auction	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	12:30 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	12:30 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
	TBA	4 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	TBA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
Sunday, May 14th	12:00 PM	5 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	12:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
	5:30 PM	Awards Ceremony and Closing Cocktail Party	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor

## The 1st Annual Cavendish Handicapped Golf Tournament

This year's 1st Annual Cavendish Handicapped Golf Tournament was held yesterday afternoon at the Desert Inn Golf Course, following a small reception at the 19th Hole. The event was handicapped (in a golf sense) by a world-class committee made up of Zia Mahmood, Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz. Based on handicaps, entrants were divided into teams-of-four with prizes awarded for outstanding team and individual achievements (see below).

This year's field included: Michelle Abecasis, David Berkowitz, Bob Blanchard, Drew Casen, Chris Convery, Michael Cornell, Russ Ekelblad, Bob Leditz, Zia Mahmood, Henry Mansell, Doug Roberts, John Roberts, Steve Sanborn, Kerri Sanborn, Barry Schaeffer, Gerhard Schiesser, David Siebert, Howard Weinstein, Sheri Weinstock, Jerry Weinstein, Christal Henner-Welland, Roy

Welland, Mike Whitman and Jon Wittes.

First Prize, for the team with the best "2 best ball" net score (with handicaps) for 18 holes, was won by Henry Mansell, Michael Cornell, Steve Sanborn and Bob Blanchard. Second Prize, for the team with the second best "2 best ball" net score (with handicaps) for 18 holes, was won by Mike Whitman, Bob Leditz, Jerry Weinstein and David Siebert. Third Prize, for the team with the "single best ball" net score (with handicap) for 18 holes, was won by Russ Ekeblad, Barry Schaeffer, David Berkowitz and Kerri Sanborn. Fourth Prize, for the closest shot to the pin on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, was won by Russ Ekeblad. And Fifth Prize, for the best individual net score (with handicap) on any single hole, was won by David Siebert. Our congratulations to all the participants and especially to the five prize winners.



First Prize winners



Buffet at the after-golf reception



Second Prize winners

## Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2000

(Based on information available at press time. This is not official. Updates will be published as they become available.)

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1	Peter Friedland – David Siebert	25	Armand Barfus – Maurice Friedman
2	John Lantgen – Reese Milner	26	Russ Samuel – Sean Samuel
3	Jim M. Foster – Allen W. Hawkins Jr.	27	Christal Henner-Welland – Uday Ivatury
4	Richard Hunt – Mark Itabashi	28	Ralph Cohen – Marvin Shapiro
5	Rob Crawford – Dan Jacob	29	Jonathan Greenspan – Beverly Perry
6	Louise Childs – Gene Freed	30	Leszek Rabiega – Edward Wojewoda
7	Joe Elsbury – Esta Van Zandt	31	Alan Cokin – Jill Meyers
8	Jack Blair – Daniel Rotman	32	Cameron Doner – Mike Lucas
9	Stan Sather – Dennis Sorenson	33	Steve Scott – Haig Tchamitch
10	Darryle Pedersen – R. Schwartz	34	Larry Cohen – Jill Levin
11	Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	35	Srikanth Kodayam – Mark Ralph
12	Denny Clerkin – Brenda Jacobus	36	Benito Garozzo – Rich Reisig
13	Steve Beatty – Bernie Yomtov	37	Bob Morris – Barbara Sion
14	K. Anand – Ghassan Menachi	38	John C Jeffrey – Sam Wilson
15	Michael McNamara – David Yates	39	Leonard Ernst – Kenny Gee
16	George Berger – Brian Glubok	40	John Solodar – Judith Weisman
17	Emil Dojaru – Sorin Pleacof	41	Sid Brownstein – Bill Wickham
18	Wayne Chu –	42	Chris Compton –
19	Bill Roberts – John Roberts	43	Renae Mancuse – Shawn Quinn
20	Manuel Capucho – Ms. J Lara	44	Joe Kivel – Jon Wittes
21	Phillip Becker – Kumar Bhatia	45	Petra Hamman – Nancy Passell
22	Venkatrao Koneru – Hemant Lall	46	Disa Cheeks – Lynn Deas
23	Bill Jacobson – Keith Woolf	47	Jim Robison – Jerry Weinstein
24	Bill Doroshov – Nate Ward		

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## Entrants for the Cavendish Teams 2000

(Based on information available at press time. This is not official. Updates will be published as they become available.)

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1	Kit Woolsey, Fred Stewart, Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson
2	Malcolm Brachman, Michael Seamon, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Paul Soloway
3	Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Peter Weichsel, Alan Sontag, Rose Johnson
4	Harry Tudor, Gary Cohler, Daniel Rotman, Barbara Wallace
5	Gerhard Schiesser, Andrzej Knap, Richie Reisig, Benito Garozzo
6	Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen, Michel Abecassis, Jean Christophe Quantin
7	Seymour Deutsch, Fred Hamilton, Billy Eisenberg, Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Bobby Wolff
8	Grant Baze, Mike Whitman, George Steiner, Gaylor Kasle, Fred Gitelman
9	Perry Johnson, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco
10	Robert Levin, Steve Weinstein, David Berkowitz, Larry Cohen
11	Louanne O'Rourke, Billy Miller, Curtis Cheek, Roger Bates, Kyle Larsen
12	Marc Jacobus, Mike Albert, Jimmy Rosenbloom, Roy Welland
13	Sam Lev, Henry Mansell, Piotr Gawrys, Jacek Pszczola
14	Andy Robson, Rita Shugart, Peter Fredin, Magnus Lindkvist
15	Maria Joao Lara, Manuel Capucho, Kay Schulle, John Mohan
16	Sidney Lazard, Bart Bramley, Russ Ekeblad, Sheila Ekeblad, John Sutherlin
17	Richie Schwartz, Drew Casen, Robert Blanchard, Jim Krekorian
18	Mike Moss, Bjorn Fallenius, Simon DeWijs, Ricco Van Prooijen
19	Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Dano DeFalco, Guido Ferraro
20	Lionel Wright, Charles Wigoder, Michael Cornell, Michael Courtney
21	Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Gabriel Chagas, Geir Helgemo
22	Verone Lungu, Daniel Sawin, Michael Elineanu, Sorin Pleacof, Emil Dojaru
23	Mark Lair, Richard Finberg, Ron Smith, Billy Cohen, Ralph Cohen
24	Dan Morse, Barry Schaffer, Colby Vernay, Adam Wildavsky

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# Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs 2000

(Based on information available at press time. This is not official. Updates will be published as they become available.)

Pair #	Pair #		
1	Robert Levin – Steve Weinstein	27	Curtis Cheek – Billy Miller
2	Piotr Gawrys – Jacek Pszczola	28	Malcolm Brachman – Mike Passell
3	Steve Garner – Howard Weinstein	29	Chris Convery – Craig Gower
4	Boye Brogeland – Espen Erichsen	30	Andy Robson – Rita Shugar
5	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	31	Drew Casen – Bill Pollack
6	Ishmael Del'Monte – Jason Hackett	32	Verone Lungu – Michael Elinescu
7	Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn	33	Mike Albert – Marc Jacobus
8	Michael Cornell – Lionel Wright	34	Billy Eisenberg – Fred Hamilton
9	Dan Morse – Adam Wildavsky	35	Perry Johnson – Jeff Meckstroth
10	Sam Lev – Henry Mansell	36	Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson
11	Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	37	Gary Cohler – Harry Tudor
12	Dano DeFalco – Guido Ferraro	38	Michel Abecassis – Jean Christophe Quantin
13	Marty Fleisher – Eric Rodwell	39	Chip Martel – Jan Martel
14	Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss	40	Robert Blanchard – Jim Krekorian
15	Bart Bramley – Sidney Lazard	41	James Rosenbloom – Roy Welland
16	Simon DeWijs – Ricco van Prooijen	42	Grant Baze – Mike Whitman
17	George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	43	John Mohan – Kay Schulle
18	Bjorn Fallenius – Mike Moss	44	Gaylor Kasle – George Steiner
19	Michael Courtney – Charles Wigoder	45	Andrzej Knap – Gerhard Schiesser
20	Roger Bates – Dan Mordecai	46	Richie Schwartz – Alan Sontag
21	Peter Boyd – Steve Robinson	47	Gabriel Chagas – Geir Helgemo
22	Paul Chemla – Alain Levy	48	Russ Ekeblad – John Sutherlin
23	Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	49	Billy Cohen – Ron Smith
24	Peter Fredin – Magnus Lindkvist	50	Bob Hamman – Zia Mahmood
25	David Berkowitz – Larry Cohen	51	Aidan Ballantyne – Joe Jabon
26	Norberto Bocchi – Giorgio Duboin	52	Richard Finberg – Mark Lair

## It's Just a Game!



"Fore..."



"What are these long red things?"



"Well, I guess I'd ruff a spade and play a diamond."



"Flag in or out?"



"How far did it go?"



"Do you think I killed him?"

# Gems From Last Year's Cavendish Invitational

(Adapted from published articles by Barry Rigal)

## The Teams:

Boyd (Robinson, Woolsey-Stewart) and Johnson (Meckstroth, Greco-Hampson) were both among the favorites. They met in the first round, which was seeded on the basis of the prices at auction, and the first board out indicated that it would be a tough struggle—and as it turned out this match was Boyd's only loss. Half the field played in slam while half stopped in game. At one table a weak 2♥ from Hampson pushed Robinson-Boyd to slam.

Dlr: North				♠ ---
Vul: None				♥ QJ1062
				♦ QJ854
				♣ K95
♠ KQ109632				♠ J87
♥ A8				♥ K975
♦ 9				♦ AK6
♣ A62				♣ Q73
				♠ A54
				♥ 43
				♦ 10732
				♣ J1084
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
	Hampson		Greco	
	2♥	Pass	Pass	
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	
6♠	All Pass			

If they were good enough to bid, they were good enough to lead; Hampson kicked off with a top heart. At trick two Greco took the ♠A and returned a second heart—essential, as otherwise declarer had little choice but to play for the Vienna Coup and successfully squeeze North in hearts and clubs. But this defense disrupted the entries for any squeeze. This was a 22-imp swing: as it happened, the final margin of victory in the match.

Bd: 5				♠ KQ105
Dlr: South				♥ AQ98
Vul: N/S				♦ J643
				♣ 6
♠ 983				♠ J72
♥ J1042				♥ 65
♦ Q				♦ 10975
♣ Q10753				♣ AK92
				♠ A64
				♥ K73
				♦ AK82
				♣ J84

This was a tough board for those playing strong notrumps. After Stayman it was reasonable for North just to punt 3NT over the 2♦ response, and now it looks trivial on a club lead for the defense to cash out. However, there are other issues. East must try to cater to putting declarer off the right track if he has ♣Q10x, while at the same time trying to ensure that the club suit does not get accidentally blocked. Peter Boyd, as East, followed the technically correct line by winning the ♣K and returning the ♣9. Larry Cohen, at another table, won the ♣A at trick one and returned the ♣2 (sacrificing technical accuracy for deception). There is a good case for taking the ace at the first trick and returning the nine to combine the two possibilities, but are there some lies of the cards where this defense might scare partner off from continuing the suit? In any case, Larry's teammates managed to avoid the bidding trap altogether. Their auction was (with Gerry Sosler North and Kay Schulle South) 1NT-3♣ [showing a three-suited hand with short clubs and four or five diamonds]; 3♦-4♦; 5♦-Pass. With the side suits behaving, 11 tricks were easy.

Dlr: South				♠ Q7
Vul: Both				♥ K9764
				♦ J105
				♣ 542
♠ K654				♠ J1092
♥ 102				♥ QJ
♦ Q32				♦ A9764
♣ K1063				♣ Q7
				♠ A83
				♥ A853
				♦ K8
				♣ AJ98
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
			1NT	
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	
Pass	4♥	All Pass		

Paul Soloway and Bob Hamman, from the team that won the Bermuda Bowl this year, play a game which does not feature much in the way of hanging back. An aggressive transfer sequence after a strong notrump left Soloway as South in 4♥. Andrea Buratti found the best lead of a low trump to the ace and Soloway played a heart back to the king, which brought the first piece of good news. Now consider the position when Soloway leads a low club from dummy to the nine. If Buratti as West wins the ♣10, he can do little but return the suit. Declarer wins and plays a third club and Buratti might as well exit with a fourth club. Declarer discards dummy's spade, ruffs out the spades, and has to guess diamonds for his contract. If Buratti shifts

to a diamond at trick four he clears up the guess in that suit, but allows East to play a spade. However, now the second club loser will eventually go away on the spades. It looks as if declarer has a counter for every move the defense has available.

But this whole sequence of plays is posited on the idea that Lanzarotti would follow with a low club at trick three. In fact, Lanzarotti put up the ♣Q, the critical defensive play. It forced declarer to release the ♣A prematurely and set up two quick club winners for the defense. When Soloway took this trick with the ace and exited with a low club, Buratti took his ten and simply led a small diamond to his partner's ace. That allowed Lanzarotti to play a spade back, setting up the defense's fourth winner before declarer had any discards for his black-suit losers.

Should declarer have won the first heart in dummy and led a trump to hand for a spade play up? On the cards this might work but if East does not find the excellent play of rising with a club honor, Soloway would have been ahead of the game his way.

After the first day the Italians and Martel were leading the field. But Martel was not having things all his own way. This was a nice defence by Fred Gitelman against Martel's teammates.

Dlr: West	♠ AKJ7	
Vul: Both	♥ K4	
	♦ 643	
	♣ J1096	
♠ 652		♠ Q1083
♥ A10753		♥ 862
♦ J87		♦ AKQ102
♣ A3		♣ Q
	♠ 94	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ 95	
	♣ K87542	

Steve Weinstein had a tough problem here. He declared 3♦ as East after his opponents had competed actively in clubs; he received the ♣7 lead. Quite reasonably he put up the ace (though instinctively it feels is right to duck) and drew three rounds of trumps, then led a low heart from dummy. Gitelman rose with the king and found the only defence to trouble declarer: he underled his ♠AK. Now Weinstein had to guess whether to play Moss for ♠Jx (or ♠Jxx) or for his actual holding. When he went up with the ♠Q, the defense had five winners to cash when they came in with the second heart.

In a match-up of the leaders, Martel beat the Italians in the first match of the next day. This was the most decisive of the deals, which featured a complex auction by

Weinstein-Levin on the following cards:

♠ J643	♠ Q108
♥ AQ3	♥ 109
♦ AKJ932	♦ Q87
♣ ---	♣ AKJ109

After 1♣-1♦-1NT Weinstein bid 2♥, artificial, saying he was too good to just bid 3NT. Levin bid 3♦ and Weinstein 4♣, showing his void. Levin bid 4♦ and over a 4♥ cue-bid retreated to 5♦. Having pinpointed the spade lead they were a little lucky to find the suit three-three and come home with +400. At the other table the Italians started with 1♦, which, in the "Nightmare" style they play, could be two cards when followed by a 1NT rebid to show a minimum balanced hand. When the auction continued 1♠-1NT, responder bid a forcing 3♦ and opener leaped to 4♠. Lanzarotti, not unreasonably, tried 5♦ and Buratti (inexplicably, with his poor diamonds) raised to 6♦, in context. That was doubled for the spade lead and ended one down. Anyone for 3NT?

Dlr: North	♠ 52	
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ87	
	♦ A632	
	♣ 1053	
♠ AQ873		♠ 64
♥ 103		♥ AQ962
♦ Q854		♦ 1097
♣ 84		♣ Q92
	♠ KJ109	
	♥ 54	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ AKJ76	

Both tables produced giant results for Sosler here. When Cohen-Berkowitz held the E/W cards and heard an invitational sequence to 3NT via 2NT, which disclosed four hearts in dummy and four spades in declarer's hand, Berkowitz (West) doubled the final contract because of his spade stack. (Had he not doubled Cohen would have done so himself, making the initial heart lead easier for Berkowitz to find.) David actually led a diamond to the jack and when declarer drove out the ♣Q by playing clubs from the top, the defence cashed out for down two. Had declarer led spades from hand at trick two, he would have got considerably closer to his contract. The truth of this was demonstrated by David's teammate Kay Schulle (South), who declared 3NT after her LHO overcalled her 1♣ 1♣ opening with 1♠. She won the spade lead, cashed one top club, then exited with the ♠K. The defence can prevail on a heart shift followed by a diamond, but West actually shifted directly to a diamond. Kay won cheaply, unblocked the diamonds, then played a third spade. Now when East gained the lead with the ♥Q he had to give the

lead to dummy for a club finesse; +430.

Bd: 13	♠ AKQJ5		
Dlr: North	♥ 87		
Vul: Both	♦ AJ9		
	♣ K97		
♠ 9864		♠ 73	
♥ J93		♥ AQ1042	
♦ Q863		♦ 52	
♣ 43		♣ A1086	
	♠ 102		
	♥ K65		
	♦ K1074		
	♣ QJ52		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Martel	Smith	Stansby	Jacobus
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The majority of the field found their way to 3NT by South on an unopposed auction and made it comfortably enough, as did Martel's teammates, Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin. However, you have to sympathize with South, Marc Jacobus, since on the auction shown Martel led the ♥3 as West—an inspired view. (His reasoning was twofold: First, he needed to hit partner's suit and a good club suit might not be enough; secondly, his partner was more likely to have hearts than diamonds and dummy might be five-four in spades and a minor, but would not hold hearts.) Stansby played the ♥Q, the right play (how many of us, in the grip of premature euphoria, might take the ace) and Jacobus was forced to win the trick. He played off the spades on which Stansby pitched clubs and Martel a discouraging diamond. Since Martel and Stansby play fourth-highest leads, the initial heart lead clearly denied a five-card suit. So Jacobus had no reason to risk the diamond finesse to set up extra winners for the defense. He simply knocked out the ♣A with a fair degree of confidence, but the defense cashed out for down one.

Bd: 21	♠ Q1098762		
Dlr: North	♥ 54		
Vul: N/S	♦ 8		
	♣ J106		
♠ J53		♠ AK4	
♥ AJ87		♥ Q106	
♦ 1097		♦ A5	
♣ Q75		♣ A8432	
	♠ ---		
	♥ K932		
	♦ KQJ6432		
	♣ K9		

E/W look destined to reach 3NT whether or not North preempts, unless they can double a N/S pair who go overboard in diamonds. However, when the defense clears the diamonds at once, nine tricks seem a long way off. Nonetheless, in the match between Chu and Sosler, both tables found a way to nine tricks in 3NT. When Craig Gower as East was declarer on the auction (2♠)-2NT-(Pass)-3NT, Kay Schulle led a top diamond. Craig took the second diamond, led the ♥Q, covered by the king and ace, and then played off the top spades. When Schulle pitched two diamonds, Gower worked out why and guessed to take the heart finesse. Now he cashed out the hearts and threw Kay in with a diamond, forcing her to lead clubs for his ninth trick. Remarkably this was for a 4-imp loss, since David Berkowitz had made the same play in 3NT doubled, to land nine tricks.

Bd: 22	♠ Q94		
Dlr: West	♥ Q8		
Vul: E/W	♦ QJ1076		
	♣ K42		
♠ KJ3		♠ 10872	
♥ 73		♥ 9542	
♦ K5		♦ A832	
♣ AJ8763		♣ 5	
	♠ A65		
	♥ AKJ106		
	♦ 94		
	♣ Q109		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Weichsel	Chemla	Sontag	Mari
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

It's bad enough to stay low and miss a cold game, but when your opponents beat you in the safe partscore you've reached, it adds insult to injury. After Peter Weichsel's natural but limited 2♣ opening, Chemla did not have enough to overcall in diamonds. When Mari reopened with 2♥ rather than doubling, Chemla decided not to explore for 3NT but to take the safe plus score...not so fast! Weichsel led the ♣A, an incisive shot, then carefully played the ♣7 for Alan Sontag to ruff. Alan now found the fine move of underleading the ♦A (Peter's middle club clearly indicated that he had no preference between the pointed suits, hence he was likely to have the king of both) and Weichsel won his king, then gave Sontag a ruff with a high club. At this point Alan led the ♠2 to ensure one down by setting up the defense's spade trick before declarer could establish the diamonds for discards.

Bd: 27	♠ 98		
Dlr: South	♥ 754		
Vul: None	♦ A1052		
	♣ K1092		
♠ 75		♠ KQJ3	
♥ AKQJ10		♥ 832	
♦ 84		♦ 3	
♣ Q873		♣ AJ654	
	♠ A10642		
	♥ 96		
	♦ KQJ976		
	♣ ---		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
P Lewis	Eisenbreg	L Lewis	Hamilton
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♦	3♥	4♣ (!)
4♥	All Pass		

With 23 combined HCP you'd expect E/W to declare the hand at a few tables. Not so. South almost invariably sacrificed in 5♦, conceding 50 or 100. A few Souths even stole the hand in a diamond partscore—not bad with 4♥ looking so playable. But Eisenberg and Hamilton showed that 4♥ could and should be beaten. Hamilton's revealing bidding tipped Eisenberg off to a low club lead. Fred ruffed, crossed to the ♦A for a second ruff, and still had the ♠A for down one.

This next deal produced so many possibilities that it would be hard to summarize them in one article.

Bd: 19	♠ Q987		
Dlr: South	♥ 10752		
Vul: E/W	♦ AQ7		
	♣ 85		
♠ 5		♠ 1063	
♥ KQJ64		♥ A83	
♦ 32		♦ KJ654	
♣ QJ732		♣ 109	
	♠ AKJ42		
	♥ 9		
	♦ 1098		
	♣ AK64		

4♠ can be made double-dummy, but things can be made easy or hard for declarer (South). Boye Brogeland essentially received the toughest defense on an uninformative auction (E/W being silent) and made his game. He got a top heart lead from Bobby Goldman followed by the ♣Q shift. He won, took the diamond

finesse to the queen and king, and won the club return. Then he cashed the ♦A, drew one round of trumps, and led a third club to pitch dummy's losing diamond. Now he could ruff a diamond low in dummy and a club high for ten tricks. Nicely done.

In the match between Blanchard and Wildavsky, both tables made 4♠—but not without interest in either room. Gaylor Kasle had an unopposed auction against Bramley-Lazard to declare 4♠. On a top heart lead followed by the ♣Q shift, Kasle cashed the ♠AQ, ruffed a heart, took the top club, then ruffed a club and got overruffed by Bramley. Bart exited with the ♥A and Kasle ruffed, then passed the ♦10 to endplay Bramley for +420.

Steve Beatty declared 4♠ and the defense began with two rounds of hearts. He ruffed and played the ♦10 to the queen and king. Back came the ♥A, so he ruffed, took one top spade, then repeated the diamond finesse. When a third diamond came back and West could not ruff, he ran the trumps to squeeze West in hearts and clubs for his contract.

And finally, Garey Hayden declared 4♠ after his RHO got in a lead-directing diamond bid and West had shown hearts and clubs. On a diamond lead he ducked to the jack, then won the club return. He cashed a top spade, ducked a heart, won the diamond return with the ace, ran the ♠9 from dummy(!), ruffed a heart, and exited with the third diamond to arrive at the following ending:

	♠ Q8		
	♥ 107		
	♦ ---		
	♣ 8		
♠ ---		♠ 10	
♥ KQ		♥ 8	
♦ ---		♦ 65	
♣ QJ7		♣ 10	
	♠ KJ		
	♥ ---		
	♦ ---		
	♣ A64		

East exited with a trump and Hayden put in the jack, catching West in a trump squeeze. If he threw a heart, declarer would win in dummy and ruff out hearts; if he threw a club, declarer would ruff out that suit instead.

So it all came down to the last match. O'Rourke (Larsen-Bates. Miller-Cheek), a team that had gone for the minimum in the auction, led Martel by a small margin. Third-place Boyd would play O'Rourke; Chagas (Zia Erichsen-Brogeland), a distant fourth, would play Martel. The hands were exciting, the final IMP scores substantial. First, a missed opportunity at almost all tables.



Dlr: East	♠ K9874		
Vul: Both	♥ QJ2		
	♦ 10652		
	♣ 10		
♠ J653		♠ A102	
♥ AK		♥ 107543	
♦ KJ84		♦ 3	
♣ 963		♣ K742	
	♠ Q		
	♥ 986		
	♦ AQ97		
	♣ AQJ85		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
All Pass			

Both Martel and Chagas played 2♣; the defense cashed the ♥AK to show a doubleton, then led a spade to the ace and a diamond came through. Declarer naturally hopped up ace and played a low club. East won the king and gave West a ruff. West then played king and another diamond for the defense's seventh trick. But that was it.

Both Wests in the Levin-Erichsen match missed the point. The early play had marked South with four diamonds. Why not give East a ruff without cashing the ♦K, then lock South in his hand to lead away from the ♦Q9 for +300?

Going into the last match, there were three teams with realistic chances of taking the title. O'Rourke was in the lead, but they lost heavily to third-place Boyd. That meant that second-place Martel could take the title if they could win their encounter with Chagas (playing with Zia) by more than 10 IMPs. They were 1 IMP down with just this deal to score up.

Bd: 23	♠ 842		
Dlr: West	♥ 1095		
Vul: Both	♦ J6		
	♣ KQJ63		
♠ KQ95		♠ AJ10763	
♥ 6		♥ J	
♦ AK10972		♦ 8	
♣ 109		♣ A8742	
	♠ ---		
	♥ AKQ87432		
	♦ Q543		
	♣ 5		

This board led to big swings everywhere since both sides had huge major-suit fits. But 6♥ goes down at least two and 6♠ fails when diamonds don't cooperate for enough discards for the losing clubs. At most tables the auction

began:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♦	Pass	1♠	4♥
4♠	5♣	5♥	

Chagas as East, playing with Zia, passed his partner's 5♠ bid and Weinstein as South sacrificed in 6♥, doubled by Zia. This was close to par for N/S, but on the top diamond lead Zia erred by shifting to the ♠K, and thus only collected 500. When Chagas' teammates, Erichsen-Brogeland, bid quickly as N/S to 6♥, Martel (East) tried 6♠ and North sacrificed in 7♥. On the two top diamonds and a discouraging spade, Stansby played a third diamond and collected 1100 for a 12-IMP pickup. That meant a win by a solitary Victory Point for Martel.

On the same deal at another table, Gitelman-Moss defended 6♥ doubled. On the second top diamond Fred as East threw the ♠A away—nice protection for partner to ensure he played a third diamond!

Martel (Stansby, Weinstein-Levin) took the top spot with 188 VPs, just passing Boyd (Robinson, Woolsey-Stewart) with 187 VPs at the wire. Third was O'Rourke (Miller-Cheek, Bates-Larsen) with 171 VPs.

### The Pairs:

The set got off to a flying start when penalties were recorded both ways on a deal where virtually no one made a contract.

Dlr: North	♠ 82		
Vul: None	♥ 5		
	♦ Q72		
	♣ AK96432		
♠ AQ763		♠ ---	
♥ KJ104		♥ 9872	
♦ 853		♦ AK1096	
♣ Q		♣ J875	
	♠ KJ10954		
	♥ AQ63		
	♦ J4		
	♣ 10		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Woolsey	Buratti	Stewart	Lanzarotti
	2♣	2♦	Dbl
2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

At one table (where Hampson-Greco were E/W) a 3♣ opening was doubled for takeout by East and left in by West. The pass was at least partly predicated on the assumption that West had a good hand with spades. That was well-judged, even though partner's hand was not as expected, and led to an easy +300. On the auction above, it seems in retrospect that either East or West erred by not doubling 4♣, so +500 turned into -300 as the Italians took two heart ruffs and a club overruff. Probably Stewart, despite minimal values, should take action—if only to prevent the specific disaster that actually occurred. Mind you, Chagas and Zia did even better than the Italians. Zia heard Levein open 3♣ and Weinstein respond 3♠, raised to game. Zia doubled and led his club. Declarer cashed the ♣AK, pitching a heart as Zia ruffed and led ace and a spade. Now the defense collected four red-suit winners and another trump for +800! However, that was untypical of how the session would pan out for the two pairs: Levin-Weinstein went on to a good set; not so Chagas and Zia.

beat the hand) and could not safely give a ruff-sluff. In fact he took the ♠A and led another spade, hoping that his partner had the ♠J, and Fred had a home for his heart loser. But there was a winning line available. Sontag had to underlead his ♠AQ to beat the hand—would you have thought of it?

Dlr: West	♠ K83		
Vul: Both	♥ 654		
	♦ 108		
	♣ 108743		
♠ J1076		♠ AQ52	
♥ J72		♥ 103	
♦ 64		♦ QJ532	
♣ Q952		♣ J6	
	♠ 94		
	♥ AKQ98		
	♦ AK97		
	♣ AK		

On perhaps the most technically interesting deal of the set the room played 4♥ by South and were faced with a variety of problems. All four suits were not only possible but found on opening lead. Lazard received a trump lead, strongly suggesting they'd split. He tackled diamonds at once, going down when the defense ruffed in, cashed two spades, and played a fourth diamond to score a second trump trick. Martel, by contrast, drew two rounds of trumps before playing on diamonds and survived unscathed. Sontag made the same unfortunate play as Lazard on the club lead, with more excuse (he couldn't play trumps confidently since he had no guaranteed hand re-entry). On a spade lead, found against Fallenius-Moss, the play is simpler. The point is that it is easy to give up the spade tricks early, take one trump, then play on diamonds. With the defense's communications gone, a sort of reverse Scissors Coup reduces the chances of uppercuts and the like.

The most humorous incident on this deal—from an onlooker's perspective—occurred when N/S reached 4♥ on an uninformative auction. On the ♦6 lead to the jack, Sheila Ekeblad failed to focus on her diamond intermediates and the danger signs implicit in the lead. She played two more rounds of diamonds at once and Wright ruffed in as Del Monte followed with the suit-preference ♦5 and ♦3. Alas, Wright missed the fact that the ♦2 was out, read these as small diamonds, and played a club; back to +620.

Bd: 12	♠ K109		
Dlr: East	♥ A653		
Vul: N/S	♦ K752		
	♣ K2		
♠ 7654		♠ AQ3	
♥ Q872		♥ 9	
♦ J		♦ 84	
♣ J973		♣ AQ108654	
	♠ J82		
	♥ KJ104		
	♦ AQ10963		
	♣ ---		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Weichsel	Moss	Sontag	Gitelman
		2♣	2♦
4♣	5♦	All Pass	

This was a tough deal for N/S, though, for example, Chambers and Schirmer as South and North respectively managed to silence their opponents. When East opened 1♣, Chambers overcalled 1♦ and Schirmer simply jumped to 3NT, making nine tricks in comfort. But reaching the four-four heart fit was not automatic when E/W could preempt quickly in clubs after a Precision 2♣ opener—and of course the 5♣ sacrifice is pretty cheap.

However, on the above auction, Fred Gitelman finished in 5♦ and found a very neat extra chance, giving Alan Sontag the opportunity for an equally fine defense. Weichsel led a helpful heart. Gitelman won in hand, crossed to dummy with a trump to ruff a club, drew a second trump, then cashed the ♥A to get the bad news. Now he found the next maneuver of leading the ♣K to pitch a low spade. Sontag won his ♣A (ducking does not

Dlr: South	♠ ---	
Vul: Both	♥ Q4	
	♦ K1093	
	♣ KQ109652	
♠ AK1087632		♠ 54
♥ J		♥ K87652
♦ J		♦ 42
♣ AJ7		♣ 843
	♠ QJ9	
	♥ A1093	
	♦ AQ8765	
	♣ ---	

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Glubok	Mari	Roberts
			1♦
Dbl	2♣	2♥	3♦
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♦
5♠	6♦	All Pass	

Many pairs played 5♦ doubled (for 750 or 950) and quite a few went down in 6♦. On a top spade lead, for instance, Zia at some point led a heart to the queen before touching trumps. Against Breed and Quinn declarer drew trumps, then led a fatal ♥9 from hand. John Roberts ruffed the spade lead, trumped a club low, then erred by leading the ♦A (if you are going to lead trumps at all, the queen caters to this holding) and another diamond. The clubs ruff out, but Roberts thought Chemla was more likely to have a doubleton ♣A or that the ♥K was onside. He ruffed a club, then led a low heart. When the jack appeared he was home on the ruffing finesse in spades.

This hand was the subject of considerable debate as to the correct line of play; Zia claimed that on a low heart from dummy at trick two East would always split his honors—probably true. If he doesn't have both heart honors, the chance of dropping something significant from West with the ♥A is also pretty good, setting up a cross-ruff. But note that in some lines if West does not cover the second top spade he creates potential overruff positions for East.

Bd: 26	♠ Q	
Dlr: West	♥ K942	
Vul: Both	♦ Q4	
	♣ KJ10863	
♠ AK82		♠ J106543
♥ A3		♥ Q7
♦ 10872		♦ 5
♣ Q42		♣ A975
	♠ 97	
	♥ J10865	
	♦ AKJ963	
	♣ ---	

West	North	East	South
Cope	L Lewis	Chu	P Lewis
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	4♠	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

The first qualifying set finished with a spectacular deal on which game might make either way. Paul Lewis played 5♥ doubled on a top spade lead after Linda had done remarkably well to find a way to get her two-suited hand into the auction. The first question was whether East should signal for a diamond or a club at trick one on the top spade lead. Chu played the ♠3 and Lewis ruffed the club shift to run the ♥J; one down. Since Cope was known not to hold five diamonds, the issue was whether West was 4-3-4-2 or his actual shape; instinctively, the winning play in practice is also theoretically more likely.

By contrast, Shenkin-Lev bought the hand in 4♠. Shenkin, as East, heard North bid clubs, so when the defense tried to cash two top diamonds he ruffed and drew trumps while eliminating diamonds. Then he cashed the ♣A and played ace and another heart to endplay whoever won the king. At yet a third table, Bart Bramley said this deal was his one bright spot in an otherwise dull afternoon. West opened 1♦ and North passed. East bid 1♠ and Bramley bid 2♦ (natural). West raised spades and so did Sidney Lazard as North. East re-raised one more time to 4♠ and after two passes, Lazard bid 5♦ (note: only a trump lead beats this). West, after two more passes, bid 5♠, doubled by North. Bramley could infer that his partner should have the ♦Q, so he led the ♦3 to Sidney's queen and ruffed the club return. The ♥5 was now led, and declarer could still have gotten out for down one by winning, ruffing a diamond, playing a spade to the king, and exiting with the ♥Q. Now the second club loser would go away. But declarer (who did not know the position of the top diamond honors) ducked the heart to Lazard's king and a second club ruff meant -500.

The following was undoubtedly the stand-out board of the second session. Jeff Meckstroth can occasionally produce a coup to take your breath away. Put yourself in his shoes as declarer here.

Dlr: South	♠ A7	
Vul: E/W	♥ J63	
	♦ J5	
	♣ QJ9642	
♠ QJ93		♠ 842
♥ A4		♥ Q102
♦ K98732		♦ Q6
♣ K		♣ A10873
	♠ K1065	
	♥ K9875	
	♦ A104	
	♣ 5	

West	North	East	South
Cope	Johnson	Chu	Meckstroth
			1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♣	Dbf	3♥
All Pass			

Cope led the ace and another trump on a very informative auction. (Jeff opened systemically on very light values, as Johnson and Meckstroth play Precision.) Jeff could immediately form a picture of West's hand as having four spades and six diamonds, with a probable singleton club honor (no club lead) and split diamond honors (no top diamond lead).

At trick three he led his singleton club, won the return of the ♠Q in dummy, and advanced the ♣Q, covered and ruffed. This was the ending (see the next column). What would you do looking at all four hands?

Playing on diamonds does not work; East will take the trick and draw a round of trumps. Similarly, ruffing a spade in dummy will bring you to eight tricks but not nine.

	♠ 7		
	♥ J		
	♦ J5		
	♣ J964		
♠ J93		♠ 84	
♥ ---		♥ Q	
♦ K9873		♦ Q6	
♣ ---		♣ 1087	
	♠ K106		
	♥ 98		
	♦ A104		
	♣ ---		

Meckstroth found the spectacular lead of the ♠10 from hand. If West wins and returns a spade (a diamond is no better) declarer wins in hand pitching a diamond from dummy, plays ♦A, ruff a diamond, ruff a club, and then leads his losing heart to endplay East to lead to dummy's ♣J9.

In fact, at this point Cope ducked the ♠10, hoping his partner had the king, which simply let Meckstroth cash the ♠K to pitch a diamond, then take the ♦A and a diamond ruff and cash the top club in dummy with a heart trick to come; +140.

Bd: 12	♠ K87		
Dlr: West	♥ J765		
Vul: N/S	♦ AKJ32		
	♣ 3		
♠ 96543		♠ J10	
♥ AK4		♥ 3	
♦ Q109		♦ 54	
♣ K10		♣ AQJ97654	
	♠ AQ2		
	♥ Q10982		
	♦ 876		
	♣ 82		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Here's a simple defensive problem against 3NT: just six tricks hinge on the play to trick two! Zia reached 3NT against the Sanborns, having bid spades twice. Steve led the ♦K (an unblock request) and shifted to hearts—eleven tricks made. Larry Cohen, after the auction (1♠-2♣-2NT-3♣-3NT) decided that his RHO was bound to have the guarded ♦Q. He led the ♦A (not an unblock request) and Berkowitz's ♦8 was suit preference for spades—a great hand for their methods. Cohen shifted to a spade and the defense cashed out for down four.

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

This deal produced a fascinating struggle between declarer and defense. It seems that the defense has the edge, but it requires a precise sequence of events after the normal start. On an unopposed Stayman sequence to 3NT, South ducks the ♣K lead and West shifts to a spade. At one table, Hampson (East) took the ♠K, as Garner unblocked the jack, and shifted to a heart. Declarer ducked—there is no good reason to hop up with the ace and play the ♠Q, which might leave you better placed in practice, but that seems too double-dummy. Accordingly, Greco scored his ♥K to revert to a spade; now Hampson had to take his ♠A and play a third spade while the suit

was still blocked to beat the hand.

When he ducked the spade, Garner needed no second chance. He won the queen, cashed the ♠AJ, the ♦A and the ♣A, then exited with his low spade. Hampson was forced to win and give dummy two tricks and the diamond finesse. At another table Chemla found the more interesting defense at trick three of a low diamond. Declarer hopped ace and played a second spade honour. Chemla won, exited with another low diamond and declarer rose with the king to try to drop the doubleton queen, with a decent fallback position if that failed (he could play a third diamond, needing only the heart finesse to work)—a swift one down.

Come the very last board of the qualifying and two of the pairs who were on the outside looking in were Miller-Cheek, who had already done well in the teams, and Weichsel-Sontag, this year's Vanderbilt winners. Both needed very good results on Board 26 to make it to the BIG game.

Dlr: West		♠ J84	
Vul: Both		♥ KQ752	
		♦ J9	
		♣ 754	
♠ K103		♠ 975	
♥ J10983		♥ A	
♦ AQ10		♦ 8762	
♣ J9		♣ K10862	
	♠ AQ62		
	♥ 64		
	♦ K543		
	♣ AQ3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	Cheek		Miller
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

West led the ♥J and Billy, deciding that he was not likely to lead this card from ace-jack length, took his first good position by playing low from dummy. When the ace appeared, Miller saw a faint hope of sustaining only moderate damage. East returned the ♠9 to the king and West continued with the ♠10, dummy's jack winning. Miller led a third spade to his ace as both opponents followed (if East ruffed it would probably be with a natural trump trick anyhow) and played the ♠Q, presenting West with his first problem. He chose to ruff with the ♥10 and Miller pitched a club from dummy as East produced what looked like an encouraging club. West switched to the ♣J, which rode around to the queen. Miller led the ♥6 to the eight and queen (East's discards were now immaterial) and returned

to hand with the ♣A. He ruffed a third club with dummy's ♥5 as West pitched the ♦10 (it would have done him no good to ruff high) and exited with a diamond to West. West cashed his last diamond but then had to lead into dummy's ♥K7 from his ♥93. That was +670 and 387 cross-IMPs and a place in the main final.

Alan Sontag and Peter Weichsel were in the same position, needing a good board to qualify. Here's what happened to them as N/S. Berkowitz (West) opened 1♥ and Cohen responded 1NT, non-forcing. If Weichsel as South had passed he would have defended 1NT—probably two down—but naturally he doubled. Sontag gritted his teeth and passed. Had he bid, he would have found it hard to go plus, let alone collect enough. When he passed, Cohen as East ran to 2♣ and on a low diamond lead played to make by putting in the ten. (He would have escaped for -100 had he played the queen.) As it was, Sontag scored his ♦J and returned a diamond. Cohen played a third diamond and Sontag ruffed to lead a trump through. Weichsel could cash two trumps, then his ♦K, and still had to come to two spade winners for +200 and, coincidentally, 200 cross-IMPs. All of that meant a chance at the serious action!

As it turned out, Miller and Cheek made the most of their last-minute reprieve. They had the biggest score in the first final session but Levin-Weinstein continued their fine form with the second biggest score; aided by carryover, they led at half-time. Ron Smith and Billy Cohen weren't far behind in third place, and the Vugraph audience had the chance to see all three pairs being followed throughout the final stanza, as they duked it out for the grand prize.

All three pairs put together good sets. In fact, the following was about the only poor deal we saw for Weinstein-Levin.

Dlr: South		♠ AQ4	
Vul: E/W		♥ AKQ8	
		♦ A9654	
		♣ 10	
♠ 53		♠ J9876	
♥ 107		♥ 65	
♦ KQJ32		♦ 108	
♣ KQJ9		♣ A764	
	♠ K102		
	♥ J9432		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 8532		

One ought to be able to find a way to play a sedate game, although a couple of pairs stopped in partscores. It is also possible to err in the other direction. For example, in the main final Linda Lewis doubled Weinstein's opening bid of 1♦ and jumped to 4♣ over the 1♥ response. When Paul Lewis cuebid 4♦, she jumped to 6♥, completing a rather optimistic series of bids. (In the Consolation, Robson overcalled 1♥ with the North cards and when Shugart

jumped to 4♥, he bid the slam.) Paul received a diamond lead rather than the killing trump. He won the ♦A, ruffed a diamond, then used spade entries while giving up a club to ruff all the diamonds in hand, to complete a dummy reversal. Robson followed a similar sort of line on a spade lead to achieve the same result. Mind you, that was not the best score for N/S. One (unnamed) E/W in the Finals of the Consolation were sufficiently sure they could beat 4♥ that they doubled. N/S redoubled and while the defense held South to eleven tricks, that was still an impressive 1080.

Dlr: South	♠ 94		
Vul: Both	♥ K9854		
	♦ KQ1096		
	♣ 2		
♠ KJ10		♠ 2	
♥ Q76		♥ A32	
♦ A75		♦ J83	
♣ AJ75		♣ KQ10943	
	♠ AQ87653		
	♥ J10		
	♦ 42		
	♣ 86		

The three tables on Vugraph had contrasting results. All three Souths opened 3♠. Miller-Cheek as E/W sold out to 3♠. When declarer mistimed the play slightly he went -200. When Cohen opened 3♠, Baze risked 3NT—destined to make, so Smith's decision to bid 4♠ was not going to cost him anything significant. However, Smith's decision got a whole lot better when Whitman tried 5♣ (4NT obviously has a lot to recommend it; as the cards lie that would fetch 630 on the likely spade lead, as North will get squeezed in the red suits one way or another). 5♣ went down two, of course, for a big pick-up for Smith-Cohen. At the third table Weinstein also overcalled 3NT and was allowed to play there and score it up in comfort for a fine result.

All three pairs scored very well here.

Bd: 5	♠ AJ543		
Dlr: North	♥ 42		
Vul: N/S	♦ 109		
	♣ 10975		
♠ Q762		♠ 109	
♥ KQ6		♥ A	
♦ KJ642		♦ AQ85	
♣ Q		♣ AKJ863	
	♠ K8		
	♥ J1098753		
	♦ 73		
	♣ 42		

This is a rather difficult slam to stay out of. In fact, in the main finals only two pairs stayed low. One pair played 5♦ and one stopped in 3NT. Of the eight pairs who bid the slam, four made it since the spade lead from the South hand is scarcely attractive. On a heart lead, declarer discards his spades on the top hearts making 13 tricks instead of 11. Levin and Weinstein were one of the pairs who bid the slam and benefited from a non-spade lead, while both Miller-Cheek and Cohen-Smith were pairs who picked up IMPs by finding the spade lead to set the slam. Linda Lewis was another player to get the lead right; she led the spade as South from the doubleton king, whereas Ron Smith led the ♠A, despite the fact that West had cuebid in the suit. Well done by both of them.

Bd: 13	♠ K3		
Dlr: North	♥ QJ9		
Vul: Both	♦ Q109876		
	♣ 86		
♠ 84		♠ QJ10752	
♥ 873		♥ 1042	
♦ J54		♦ K2	
♣ A10754		♣ J9	
	♠ A96		
	♥ AK65		
	♦ A3		
	♣ KQ32		

All three contending pairs were N/S and opened a weak two-bid as East doubled, then converted West's value-showing 3♦ bid to 3NT. How would you play on a spade lead? Three different approaches were taken, two of them successful and one not. Against Levin-Weinstein, Kerri Sanborn took the ♠K and passed the ♦Q, making eleven tricks in comfort. Against Miller-Cheek, Greco ducked the spade, won the continuation, and also ran the ♦Q. He made only ten tricks (on a club shift at trick two things might have gotten more interesting, though declarer is virtually forced to get the diamond suit right). Against Smith-Cohen, Paul Lewis won the first spade with the ace and misguessed diamonds, playing the ace and then leading to the queen. Smith shifted to the ♣J and when Paul ducked, his fate was sealed: club continuations doomed him. Had he covered the first club, Cohen would have had to find the master play of the ♣10, swallowing up his partner's nine, to beat the hand. But that would have been South's only practical chance to beat the game anyway.

With a couple of rounds to go, Smith and Cohen dropped out of contention. This board cost them.

Bd: 25	♠ 10		
Dlr: North	♥ A96		
Vul: E/W	♦ QJ10985		
	♣ 976		
♠ Q		♠ AK98752	
♥ J742		♥ Q105	
♦ K42		♦ A73	
♣ AKQ53		♣ ---	
	♠ J643		
	♥ K83		
	♦ 6		
	♣ J10842		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Smith	S.Sanborn	Cohen	K.Sanborn
	3♦	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

result, since three of the ten N/S pairs had gone minus on the deal. However, one of the E/W pairs who went plus was Weinstein-Levin, who bought the hand in 3♦ and made 110. Since E/W's score was relatively better than N/S's, they figured to pick up IMPs on the leaders. However, one N/S pair had been doubled in 3♠ and made it, which meant that Miller-Cheek paid out to the lucky N/S pair while Levin-Weinstein collected from the unfortunate E/W pair. The effect of this was that Levin-Weinstein gained 46 IMPs for their result while Miller-Cheek scored exactly zero for +100. So as a result of this deal, Weinstein-Levin were catapulted into first place by 9 IMPs—you can do the mathematics and see how significant that +730 was!

First was S.Weinstein-Levin (903 IMPs); second was Miller-Cheek (894); third was Cohen-Smith (533). The Consolation Pairs was won by Rossano-Vivaldi, the world Mixed Pairs title holders, and Rob Crawford-Dan Jacob won the World Bridge Production Pairs.

There's scarcely a more attractive lead than a singleton in partner's suit, but Kerri had been listening to the auction and more importantly she knew that her spade trick wouldn't run away. She unerringly led a heart and the defense cashed its two heart tricks with a trump winner yet to come.

Going into the last three deals, Miller-Cheek led Levin-Weinstein by 36 cross-IMP, equating to exactly 4 real IMPs. The pairs would be sitting in opposite directions, so to a certain extent the behavior of the field might determine the result; and so it proved. Two of the last three deals were almost completely flat, so the whole event depended on this competitive part-score deal.

Bd: 29	♠ A6543		
Dlr: North	♥ AKQ3		
Vul: Both	♦ 9		
	♣ Q103		
♠ 7		♠ K109	
♥ J106		♥ 74	
♦ AKJ82		♦ Q10653	
♣ A872		♣ K95	
	♠ QJ82		
	♥ 9852		
	♦ 74		
	♣ J64		

Miller-Cheek (N/S) accurately competed to 3♠, over which their opponents bid on to 4♦. Nobody could double that and the defense cashed their three major-suit winners, then sat back and waited for their club trick. Plus 100 was a decent



"Five...uh, or is it six?"