

World Bridge Productions  
Presents the  
**C**♠**ovendish**<sub>wbp</sub>  
**Invitational**

Bulletin Number 3

Friday, May 12, 2006

Editor: Rich Colker

## Abdou Wins 2006 John Roberts Teams



Wafik Abdou, Connie Goldberg, Pratap, Steve Landen

The team captained by Wafik Abdou (Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha) began Day 2 in second place with 124 VPs, just 4 behind the leaders and 11 ahead of third. But in their final three matches they collected 59 out of the 90 VPs available (second only to the Deutsch team, who collected an incredible 80 VPs) to take over first place at the wire. Tied for second place with 167 VPs were the teams captained by Seymon Deutsch (Billy Cohen, Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway) and Roy Welland (Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein). The complete standings and match-by-match results are on p 3.

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# **ALERT! – ALERT! – ALERT!**

Today's starting time is 10:30. The between-session break will be slightly more than 1 hour. The evening session will end no later than 8:45.

## Conditions of Contest: Expansions and Clarifications

In general, it is our intent to allow methods with which other contestants are expected to be familiar. It is also our intent to allow reasonable artificiality in auctions where the bidding side has guaranteed sufficient (high-card) values to invite game. Along with the current "prize-pool only" team format there will be no minimum play requirement for individuals; however, teams should make certain that all team members are listed on the entry before play commences. If you have any questions about your own or your opponents' methods, the person to see is Rich Colker.

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### Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Activity	Location
Friday, May 12	10:30 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	TBA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
Saturday, May 13	10:30 AM	WBP Brunch	El Viento
	11:00 AM	WBP Auction	(below Sports Book)
	12:30 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	12:30 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
	7:30 PM	4 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	7:30 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
Sunday, May 14	12:00 PM	5 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	12:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
	4:30 PM	Closing Party	

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### Entrants for the John Roberts Teams 2006

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

- 1 **LouAnn O'Rourke**, Mathias Bruun, Peter Fredin, Geoff Hampson, Marc Jacobus, Eric Rodwell
- 2 **Pierre Zimmermann**, Fulvio Fantoni, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace
- 3 **Christine Zimmermann (NPC)**, Marc Bompis, Alain Levy, Herve Mouiel, Jean-Christophe Quantin
- 4 **Seymon Deutsch**, Billy Cohen, Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway
- 5 **Richie Schwartz**, Waleed ElAhmady, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian, Tarek Sadek, Chris Willenken
- 6 **Gilad Altshuler**, Piotr Bizon, Piotr Gawrys, Michael Kwiecien
- 7 **Wafik Abdou**, Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha
- 8 **Gaylor Kasle**, Grant Baze, David Berkowitz, Sam Lev, Billy Pollack, Jacek Pszczola
- 9 **Zoltan Nagy**, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Bob Richman
- 10 **Roy Welland**, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein
- 11 **Bob Blanchard**, Gary Cohler, Jeff Meckstroth, Howard Weinstein
- 12 **Hansa (NPC)**, Boye Brogeland, Ishmael Del'Monte, Vincent Demuy, JoAnna Stansby, Lew Stansby, Gavin Wolpert
- 13 **Sheila Ekeblad**, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Bob Hamman, Michael Seamon
- 14 **Michael Cornell**, Chris Compton, Mike Passell, Michael Rosenberg

# John Roberts Teams: Final VP Standings (9 Matches)

(Team Rosters on p. 2)

Team #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Rank
1			7	12/5	2				30			23/30	5	18	132	
2				5	5		3		29	10		18	25	30/24	149	<b>Best 3<sup>rd</sup></b>
3	23			19	22/21		3	5		15			18	23	149	
4	18/25	25	11				8				21	22	30	7	167	<b>2/3</b>
5	28	25	8/9				19/11	27		21/6					154	
6							10	11/8	3/0		23	8	0/30		93	
7		27	27	22	11/19	20				15/13		29			183	<b>1</b>
8			25		3	19/22			3		15/4	19		5	115	
9	0	1				27/30		27		0	9/24	6			124	
10		20	15		9/24		15/17		30				19	18	167	<b>2/3</b>
11				9		7		15/26	21/6			21		0/5	110	
12	7/0	12				22	1	11	24		9		30		116	
13	25	5	12	8/0		30/0				11		0			91	
14	12	0/6	7	23				25		12	30/25				140	

## John Roberts Teams Prize Awards



Place	Players
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$50,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$32,500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$22,000
<b>Best 3rd Session (not in top 3)</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>



### Gamblers Non-Anonymous

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

### Great Bid/Play!

If you make or see a great bid, play or defense we'd like to report it in the Daily Bulletin. Report what happened to the Bulletin Editor (or jot it down and give it to the Editor or a Director). Include the Board # and player names if possible.

## Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2006

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

Pair #	Pair #
1 Nels Erickson – Marjorie Michelin	13 Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon
2 Marc Jacobus – Lou Ann O'Rourke	14 James Cunningham – Frank Treiber III
3 Jon Kranyak – Ken Kranyak	15 Mike Albert – Gary Zeiger
4 Don Sulgrove – Kathleen Sulgrove	16 Mike Cappelletti Jr. – John Morris
5 Wafik Abdou – Connie Goldberg	17 Bruce Ferguson – Bob Hollman
6 Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn	18 Arno Hobart – George Mittelman
7 Lynn Baker – partner	19 Roger Lord – partner
8 Simon Kantor – Murray Melton	20 David Chechelashvili – David Yang
9 Marinesa Letezia – Carlyn Steiner	21 Rob Crawford – Joe Kivel
10 Joshua Donn – Marshall Miles	22 Jiang Gu – Xiaodong Shi
11 Fared Assemi – Ed Wojewoda	23 Danielle Tessier – Carol Belise
12 Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	24 Fred Hamilton – partner

## Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs 2006

Rank	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)	Rank	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)
30	Zia Mahmood – Andrew Robson	48	34	Neil Chambers – John Schermer	14
3	Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes	43	36	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	14
1	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	42	38	David Berkowitz – Billy Pollack	14
50	Antonio Sementa – Alfredo Versace	42	41	Ton Bakkeren – Huub Bertens	14
15	Waleed ElAhmady – Tarek Sadek	34	9	Grant Baze – Gaylor Kasle	13
4	Geoff Hampson – Eric Rodwell	32	23	Peter Lakatos – Gabor Winkler	13
2	Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	29	29	Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin	13
49	Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel	25	39	Bob Blanchard – Jeff Meckstroth	13
5	Boye Brogeland – Ishmael Del'Monte	23	8	Seymour Deutsch – Paul Soloway	12.5
6	Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland	21	10	Richie Schwartz – Chris Willenken	12.5
20	Steve Landen – Pratap Rajadhyaksha	20	12	Michael Elinescu – Entscho Wladow	12.5
7	Gary Cohler – Howard Weinstein	19	14	Gilad Altschuler – Piotr Gawrys	12.5
11	Piotr Bizon – Michael Kwiecien	17	18	Christal Henner-Welland – Michael Kamil	12.5
13	Curtis Cheek – Joe Grue	17	19	Amos Kaminski – Shaya Levit	12.5
16	Bob Hamman – Justin Lall	17	21	George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	12.5
24	Chris Compton – Mike Passell	17	25	Zoltan Nagy – Bob Richman	12.5
26	Drew Casen – Jim Krekorian	17	28	Jill Levin – Jill Meyers	12.5
17	Alex Dubinin – Andrei Gromov	16	32	Franck Multon – Pierre Zimmermann	12.5
37	Marc Bompis – Jean-Christophe Quantin	16	40	Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn	12.5
33	Marty Fleisher – Chip Martel	15	42	Bart Bramley – Barry Rigal	12.5
22	Michael Cornell – Michael Rosenberg	14	43	Mathias Bruun – Peter Fredin	12.5
27	Vincent Demuy – Gavin Wolpert	14	46	JoAnna Stansby – Lew Stansby	12.5

Auction Total: \$821,000



# The John Roberts Teams: Sessions Two and Three

## Match Four:

Match four features Jeff Meckstroth-Bob Blanchard versus two young Canadians, Gavin Wolpert-Vincent Demuy.

With E/W running interference throughout Meckstroth-Blanchard judged very well to reach 5♣, which fared quite nicely with the heart suit lying favorably; +400 for N/S.

Bd: 2	♠ 10		
Dir: East	♥ AKQ982		
Vul: N/S	♦ K		
	♣ A10953		
♠ Q7		♠ AKJ8532	
♥ J54		♥ 6	
♦ A1098754		♦ Q32	
♣ 7		♣ 62	
	♠ 964		
	♥ 1073		
	♦ J6		
	♣ KQJ84		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT	2♠	Pass	2NT
3♦	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Bd: 4	♠ Q106		
Dir: West	♥ A10642		
Vul: Both	♦ KJ5		
	♣ J5		
♠ AK754		♠ J9832	
♥ QJ5		♥ 7	
♦ A1087		♦ 432	
♣ 9		♣ 8764	
	♠ ---		
	♥ K983		
	♦ Q96		
	♣ AKQ1032		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♣
4♠	Dbf	All Pass	

Meckstroth's 5♥ contract didn't require any guesses, but 5♠ by E/W is cold if declarer guesses the diamonds—and provides an excellent save against 5♥ even if he doesn't. The Canadians misjudged the auction at the one vulnerability we wouldn't expect them to (yes, we all know the five level belongs to the opponents) since 5♠ figures to provide cheap insurance. Plus 650 for N/S.

Meckstroth had a fielder's choice: double 4♠ or commit his side to the five level (would 4NT be choice-of-games or ace-asking?). He doubled and collected 500 when both 5♠ and 5♥ were cold. Should South pull the double and if so, would 4NT get them to anything other than 5♠? This would be a more interesting decision at matchpoints.

Bd: 3	♠ 8		
Dir: South	♥ AQJ107		
Vul: E/W	♦ A1054		
	♣ J87		
♠ Q942		♠ A763	
♥ K52		♥ 964	
♦ QJ82		♦ K973	
♣ A3		♣ 105	
	♠ KJ105		
	♥ 83		
	♦ 6		
	♣ KQ9642		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbf	1NT
2♠	3♣	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Bd: 5	♠ AJ864		
Dir: North	♥ KJ10		
Vul: N/S	♦ ---		
	♣ 108762		
♠ Q1097		♠ 32	
♥ 73		♥ A85	
♦ A9542		♦ Q87	
♣ A5		♣ QJ943	
	♠ K5		
	♥ Q9642		
	♦ KJ1063		
	♣ K		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Meckstroth's 2♣ was reverse Drury and Blanchard's 2♦ showed an opening bid that for one reason or another could not jump directly to game. South's "opener" looks a little ragged from this writer's perspective but we've all seen games made on less—especially if partner has the foresight to contribute four-card trump support. On the other hand Meckstroth couldn't have been thrilled to hear that Blanchard had a secondary diamond suit opposite his void (especially with only three trumps) but none of us would want to explain to our teammates why we failed to reach game if it makes, so Meckstroth went directly to 4♥. However, he did not pass Go and did not collect \$200. In fact, it was the Canadians who collected 200.

Wolpert led the ♠10 to dummy's jack. Blanchard led a spade to the king, ruffed a diamond, and tried to cash the ♠A but Demuy ruffed with the ♥8. Blanchard overruffed with the ♥9, then ruffed another diamond followed by another spade ruff as Demuy shed his last diamond—the queen. When Wolpert followed low smoothly to the ♦K Blanchard thought for a while before ruffing with the ♥K. Demuy overruffed with the ace and led a club to Wolpert's ace. Wolpert cashed his ♦A and give Demuy a diamond ruff. Wolpert still had the ♥73 left behind Blanchard's ♥Q64 to put the contract two down; +200 for E/W.

Bd: 7	♠ 7		
Dlr: South	♥ Q10432		
Vul: Both	♦ AKJ6		
	♣ J72		
	♠ K6542	♠ J108	
	♥ 7	♥ KJ8	
	♦ Q	♦ 9854	
	♣ AKQ963	♣ 1085	
	♠ AQ93		
	♥ A965		
	♦ 10732		
	♣ 4		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	4♣
4♠	5♥	Dbl	All Pass

It seems the five level belongs to Jeff Meckstroth, at least it did in this match. When Blanchard splintered as a passed hand Meckstroth saw the power of his 11-count and bid on over Wolpert's 4♠. It is hard to fault Demuy's double looking, as he was, at the king-jack third of trumps behind declarer and hearing his partner bid to the four level on his own. On the ♠J lead Meckstroth won dummy's ace and led a club to Wolpert's king. He tried the ♠K and when Meckstroth ruffed the prospects were not looking good for the defense. When Demuy ducked the ♥Q Meckstroth let it ride and when the ♦Q turned up Meckstroth claimed 11 tricks; +850 for N/S.

Blanchard won the match by 8 IMPs, 21-9 in VPs.

**Match Five:**

This match pitted Versace-Sementa of the Zimmermann team against Levin-Weinstein of the Welland team.

Bd: 12	♠ K987		
Dlr: West	♥ K54		
Vul: N/S	♦ 107		
	♣ 10843		
	♠ QJ	♠ A6532	
	♥ J2	♥ 9	
	♦ 865	♦ AQJ942	
	♣ QJ9762	♣ K	
	♠ 104		
	♥ AQ108763		
	♦ K3		
	♣ A5		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♥	3♠	4♦
4♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
5♦	Dbl	All Pass	

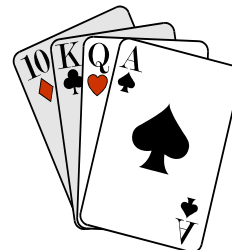
Versace's 4♠ bid backfired (did the jump to 3♠ show a stronger hand than the one East held?), turning a potential plus score defending 4♥ (on a club lead) into a minus. After ace and another heart Sementa ruffed and played the ♣K to the ace. Weinstein tried the ♠10 making it easy for Sementa to ruff out the spades for one down; -100 for E/W.

In Hansa-Nagy match, Boye Brogeland-Ishmael Del'Monte bid the N/S cards to 3NT doubled on the following auction:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	<i>Del'Monte</i>		<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	2♥	2♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Brogeland ducked the ♠Q lead, covered the ♠J continuation, and rose with the ♦K when East shifted to the ♦J. When that held he took the rest of the tricks; +1150 for N/S.

Sementa's hyper-aggressive bidding came back to haunt him again on the final board of the match.



Bd: 18	♠ Q4	
Dlr: East	♥ K10	
Vul: N/S	♦ AKQ1084	
	♣ 964	
♠ AK1098		♠ ---
♥ AJ87654		♥ 92
♦ ---		♦ J973
♣ 10		♣ AKJ8532
	♠ J76532	
	♥ Q3	
	♦ 652	
	♣ Q7	

Sitting East Sementa opened 5♣ and Versace thought he had enough to carry on to six. Oops! Weinstein chose the ♥Q opening lead and Sementa rose with the ace to cash the ♠AK, pitching his heart loser and a diamond. A spade ruff and diamond ruff followed, but he still had to lose two diamonds for one down, -100.

Zimmerman lost the match by 7 IMPs, 10-20 in VPs.

#### Match Six:

Nothing much happened at the table I was watching that was of interest here (translation: I was paid off handsomely to suppress what happened in this match), so we'll next turn to the final three matches from yesterday.

#### Match Seven:

This match featured Ishmael Del'Monte-Boye Brogeland versus Peter Fredin-Mathias Bruun.

Bd: 1	♠ KQJ65	
Dlr: North	♥ Q9643	
Vul: None	♦ K9	
	♣ J	
♠ 982		♠ A10743
♥ 8752		♥ A10
♦ J1063		♦ 5
♣ 64		♣ KQ1097
	♠ ----	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ AQ8742	
	♣ A8532	

After Del'Monte opened 1♠ as North, East, Bruun, overcalled 2♣ and N/S ended up in 4♥. Bruun led the ♣K to the ace and Del'Monte thought for a very long time before ruffing a club to hand and leading the ♠K to ruff out East's ace. A diamond to the king was followed by two more high spades (dummy throwing one of each minor), then a fourth spade ruffed with the ♥K (Fredin pitching a diamond). When a club was led from dummy Fredin ruffed with the ♥8 and Del'Monte over-ruffed with the nine and exited with the ♠5 to Bruun's ten (a diamond from dummy; Fredin also pitching a diamond).

Bruun exited with the ♣Q, Fredin pitching his last diamond as Del'Monte ruffed. When Del'Monte played the ♦9 to dummy Fredin ruffed and Bruun took the last two tricks with the ♥A10. Down one, -50 for N/S.

Del'Monte's line of play was perfect up until trick nine, when he exited with his last spade to Bruun's ten. Instead he must play his ♦9. If Bruun ruffs with the ♥10 he can cash the ♠10 but the only other trick the defense can then get is the ♥A. If Bruun pitches a club Del'Monte wins the diamond in dummy and continues with another top diamond (or any other card for that matter). Regardless, the defense can only come to two trumps and a spade. The only thing Del'Monte had to guard against was losing a spade and allowing Fredin to score a ruff apart from Bruun's two trump tricks.

Bd: 2	♠ QJ7	
Dlr: East	♥ J8	
Vul: N/S	♦ KQ632	
	♣ J97	
♠ 4		♠ AK1093
♥ K10754		♥ 96
♦ 95		♦ AJ8
♣ A10854		♣ KQ6
	♠ 8652	
	♥ AQ32	
	♦ 1074	
	♣ 32	

Here Fredin-Bruun returned the favor when Bruun passed a bid Fredin intended as forcing (1♠-1NT; 2NT-3♥; P) and played 3♥, cold for game in either hearts or notrump. Plus 170 for E/W.

Bd: 9	♠ 932		
Dlr: North	♥ 1052		
Vul: E/W	♦ K86		
	♣ 8642		
♠ AKJ1076		♠ 54	
♥ KJ94		♥ 3	
♦ A		♦ J432	
♣ AK		♣ QJ10975	
	♠ Q8		
	♥ AQ876		
	♦ Q10975		
	♣ 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Bruun</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl	Pass	2♣	2♦
2♥	3♦	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

6♣ is a terrific contract and Fredin constructed a fine auction to get there. By cue-bidding 2♥ at his second turn rather than bidding spades he showed a strong hand with flexibility for contracts other than spades. So when he later bid 4♣ Bruun knew that his hand would be virtually useless in that contract but that Fredin's hand would contain adequate support for a club contract. Then Fredin applied the *coup de gras* and raised Bruun to slam.

Brogeland led the ♥A after which there was nothing to the play. Plus 1370 for E/W.

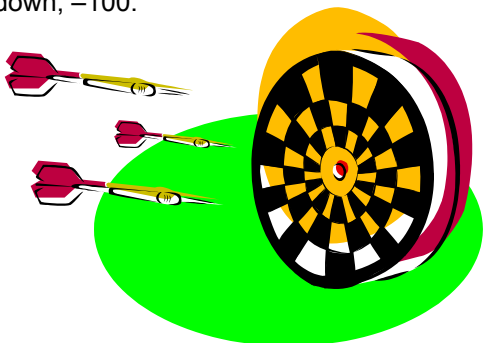
At the table there was some concern that Fredin had taken a very long time to bid 4♣, which could have influenced Bruun's decision to bid 5♣. But the auction and Bruun's hand all screamed for the 5♣ bid, so the Directors allowed the table result to stand.

**Match Eight:**

This match featured Zia-Robson playing against Fantoni-Nunes. It wasn't long before the fur began to fly.

Bd: 10	♠ 8		
Dlr: East	♥ J65		
Vul: Both	♦ AQ109653		
	♣ J4		
♠ J9		♠ AKQ742	
♥ Q1094		♥ A72	
♦ K42		♦ ---	
♣ A987		♣ 10632	
	♠ 10653		
	♥ K83		
	♦ J87		
	♣ KQ5		

Zia-Robson bid the E/W cards to 4♣ after North, Fantoni, overcalled 2♦. Nunes led the ♦7 and Zia was down to five trumps immediately. After two rounds of trumps revealing the bad news there, Zia craftily led a low club and put in the eight when Nunes played low, protecting against a further tap—at least for the moment. The defense returned a club to the ace and Zia exited with a third club, but now Nunes was in again to lead a second diamond through the king. Now down to South's trump length Zia drew the remaining trump, then led a club to dummy, but nothing good was happening in the heart suit and the defense had to come to two more tricks for one down, -100.



Bd: 14	♠ KJ76		
Dlr: East	♥ ---		
Vul: None	♦ K74		
	♣ QJ10543		
♠ 9		♠ A105	
♥ Q32		♥ AJ10965	
♦ AQJ10852		♦ 63	
♣ A2		♣ 86	
	♠ Q8432		
	♥ K874		
	♦ 9		
	♣ K97		

Zia (East) opened a not-so-weak 2♥ and Robson probed with 2NT. Over Fantoni's 3♣ intervention Zia jumped to 4♥ and now Robson couldn't be contained. When RKCB revealed that Zia held two key cards the 6♥ bid card was on the table, but this time everything was wrong for declarer in the red suits and with the club lead 6♥ was down two, -100 for E/W.

Bd: 16	♠ AK2		
Dlr: West	♥ 965		
Vul: E/W	♦ K102		
	♣ A1085		
♠ 3		♠ Q764	
♥ 4		♥ AKQJ10	
♦ J87653		♦ A4	
♣ KJ643		♣ 97	
	♠ J10985		
	♥ 8732		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ Q2		

West	North	East	South
Robson	Fantoni	Zia	Nunes
Pass	1NT(1)	Dbl	2♥(2)
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT(3)	Pass	3♥(4)	Pass
3♠(5)	Pass	3NT(6)	Pass
4♦(7)	Pass	4♥(8)	Pass
5♣(9)	Dbl(10)	5♦(11)	Pass
Pass	Dbl(12)	All Pass	

- (1) 11+-15 HCP; (2) Transfer; (3) Two places to play
- (4) I have hearts; (5) I don't; try something else
- (6) Okay, how's this?; (7) I prefer my own longer suit
- (8) Perhaps you didn't hear me earlier. I have hearts.
- (9) I still prefer one of my own suits.; (10) Tasty
- (11) What's a poor Paki to do? (12) Feel the burn

As if things hadn't been going badly enough for Zia-Robson already, this hand upped the temperature a little more. I'll



spare you, dear reader, from the grizzly details of the play and simply inform you that -500 was not a great success for two of the world's greatest players.

In spite of the problems Zia and Andrew experienced, they (by that I mean their teammates) won the match by 18 IMPs, 25-5 in VPs.

**Match Nine:**

Our final match features Tarek Sadek-Waleed El Ahmady versus Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein.

Bd: 20	♠ KQ832		
Dlr: West	♥ 975		
Vul: Both	♦ 6		
	♣ A965		
♠ 1076		♠ 4	
♥ 108642		♥ QJ3	
♦ A85		♦ KQ9432	
♣ 83		♣ 742	
	♠ AJ95		
	♥ AK		
	♦ J107		
	♣ KQJ10		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

El Ahmady's 1♦ opening in third seat caused just enough problems to keep Levin-Weinstein out of their cold slam. Maybe Weinstein should have moved over 4♠ but on some days the five level isn't safe for anyone but Jeff Meckstroth.

Bd: 21	♠ QJ1043		
Dlr: North	♥ A1092		
Vul: N/S	♦ ---		
	♣ Q763		
♠ 9		♠ A875	
♥ J875		♥ KQ43	
♦ AJ9742		♦ Q86	
♣ AJ		♣ 95	
	♠ K62		
	♥ 6		
	♦ K1053		
	♣ K10842		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dbl	2♠
2NT	3♠	Dbl	All Pass

Sadek's 2NT was of the "Good/Bad" variety (this time bad), but El Ahmady thought N/S were in trouble anyway. He got off to the ♦6 lead and Sadek put in the nine. Levin avoided the early tap by pitching a heart and Sadek played a heart to Levin's ace. Levin ruffed a heart, then led a club to the jack and queen and a second club to the king and ace. Sadek got out with the ♠9 to dummy's king and Levin played a second spade to the queen and ace. Now he was in control. El Ahmady got out with a heart all Levin lost was a trick in each suit for +730.

Bd: 24	♠ ---		
Dlr: West	♥ KQ1062		
Vul: None	♦ J765		
	♣ Q876		
♠ KQ97		♠ 108654	
♥ J875		♥ ---	
♦ AK8		♦ Q943	
♣ A5		♣ 10432	
	♠ AJ32		
	♥ A943		
	♦ 102		
	♣ KJ9		

This board was interesting for the play in 4♠, even though Sadek-El Ahmady stopped in 3♠ and made only nine tricks. But in the match between Casen-Krekorian and Welland-Fallenuis, the latter pair reached 4♠ doubled from the East seat (Welland). The play went as follows.

Krekorian, South, led the ♥A, ruffed, and a spade was led to the queen revealing the bad split as Casen, North, pitched a heart. Welland ruffed another heart, crossed to the ♦K, ruffed a third heart, and at trick 6 erred by crossing to dummy with a second diamond to ruff the last heart. But now, when the defense later won a club, South could obtain a diamond ruff and exit with a third club and sit back to wait for two spade tricks in the ending.

A better line of play is to cross back to dummy with the ♣A at trick 6 to ruff the last diamond, leaving this position.

	♠ ---		
	♥ ---		
	♦ J76		
	♣ Q87		
♠ Q97		♠ ---	
♥ ---		♥ ---	
♦ A8		♦ Q94	
♣ 5		♣ 1043	
	♠ AJ3		
	♥ ---		
	♦ 10		
	♣ KJ		

Now the best the defense can do is to win when declarer exits in clubs and play a diamond. But declarer can win the queen in hand and ruff a club, then exit with the  $\diamond A$ . South must ruff this and is then endplayed.

Bd: 27	$\spadesuit$ KQ9654		
Dlr: South	$\heartsuit$ 98		
Vul: None	$\diamond$ AK96		
	$\clubsuit$ 2		
$\spadesuit$ A8		$\spadesuit$ 7	
$\heartsuit$ K1052		$\heartsuit$ AQJ76	
$\diamond$ QJ54		$\diamond$ 32	
$\clubsuit$ QJ10		$\clubsuit$ K9543	
	$\spadesuit$ J1032		
	$\heartsuit$ 43		
	$\diamond$ 1087		
	$\clubsuit$ A876		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
			Pass
1 $\diamond$	1 $\spadesuit$	2 $\heartsuit$	3 $\spadesuit$
4 $\heartsuit$	4 $\spadesuit$	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

With the diamonds lying right for declarer 4 $\spadesuit$  was as cold as they come. And the  $\diamond 3$  opening lead only confirmed what Levin knew to be the case all along. When the smoke had cleared Levin took ten tricks for another score beginning with a "7." Plus 790 for N/S.

Levin-Weinstein won the match by 14 IMPs, 24-6 in VPs.

The team captained by Wafik Abdou (Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha) won the event by 16 VPs. Two teams tied for second place: the teams captained by Seymon Deutsch and Roy Welland. (See pages 1 and 3 for more details.)



## Changed Days, Indeed

by Sam Leckie

Most of you know of my success in naming the winners of this event. I have been coming to this tournament for the past nine years. Six out of 9 can't be bad. I have surprised even my modest self, but perhaps my greatest triumph was a couple of years ago when WBP asked me not to name my selection until after the auction as it could affect the prices. Hell, did I not give you a complete profile of the winning pair (Gitelman-Moss) the year they won?

The one pick I have never made in all these years is everybody's favorite player—Zia. I have always been of the opinion that the method of scoring and other factors made him a no-go and my judgment has been spot-on because the best finish he has ever achieved was second place in 1998, playing with Steve Weinstein. Believe me, even I could finish

runner-up playing with four-time champion Steve. This year I feel is different. The other factors have been reduced (this venue is an expensive taxi ride to the strip) and his teaming up with Andy Robson (I swear, the kid is still growing!). A few years ago they were a very successful partnership all over Europe and the fact that Zia has gone to all the trouble of reinventing it must be a pointer.

What finally decided it for me was an incident that happened Tuesday evening. Zia was having a meal with a few of the players when suddenly he announced he was going to bed. The time was only 8:45 pm. This was surprising enough, but the clincher for me was that all the other players actually believed him!