

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

Bulletin Number 5

Sunday, May 9, 2004

Editor: Rich Colker  
Contributing Editor: Barry Rigal

## **Hamman-Zia Lead Cavendish Pairs**

With one session to go in the 2004 Cavendish Invitational Pairs, Bob Hamman and Zia Mahmood lead the field with a score of 2827.22 cross-imps, about 53 ahead of Paul Chemla and Guido Ferraro with 2773.61. Hamman-Zia scored up a session sixth and a session ninth yesterday to take over the lead from Andrea Buratti and Massimo Lanzarotti, who went plus in both of yesterday's sessions but fell to eighth place. In third place are Sam Lev and Jacek Pszczola with 2465.05. Two Italian pairs, Fantoni-Nunes and Bocchi-Duboin, both high among the pre-event favorites, are holding down fourth and fifth places, respectively. Rose Meltzer and Peter Weichsel, in second place at the end of day one, took the lead after yesterday's third session but had a rocky going yesterday evening and fell to thirteenth place going into today's final session. The Egyptian pair of Elahmady-Sadek, second place finishers for the past two years, are also very much in the running, currently in sixth place. The complete day-two standings can be found on page 3.

## **Del'Monte-Stern Lead WPB Pairs**

"You can call me" Ishmael Del'Monte and "Not-to-be-confused with NBA commissioner" David Stern led the field after the first session and came close to matching their first-session score in the evening as well, to go into day two of the WBP Pairs with 1139 cross-imps and a very comfortable lead—virtually double the score—over second place Joe Kivel and Jim Murphy, who tip the cross-imp scale at 586. In third place are Allan Cokin and Harold Lilie with 484. Leo Bell-Marshall Miles and Sheila Ekeblad-Micheal Seamon hold down fourth and fifth places, respectively. The complete day-one standings and auction results can be found on p. 2.

### **Gamblers Non-Anonymous**

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

**Good Luck today, have a safe trip home,  
and we hope to see you all again next year.**

## Conditions of Contest: Expansions and Clarifications

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

### Today's Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Activity	Location
Sunday, May 9	11:30 PM	5 <sup>th</sup> Session, Pairs	Pavilion 9
	12:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session, WBP Pairs	Pavilion 8
	4:30 PM	Closing Party	Brasilia 1 & 2 (or outside)

### WBP Pairs: Day One Standings and Auction Results

Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)	Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)
1	1139	Ishmael Del'Monte – David Stern	\$1.8K	13	3	Arno Hobart – George Mittelman	\$2.6K
2	586	Joe Kivel – Jim Murphy	\$1.3K	14	-10	Mike Cappelletti, Jr. – Doug Levene	\$1.2K
3	484	Allan Cokin – Harold Lilie	\$1.8K	15	-22	Aiden Ballantyne – Derrell Childs	\$1.3K
4	406	Leo Bell – Marshall Miles	\$1.1K	16	-130	Rob Crawford – Dan Jacob	\$2.0K
5	379	Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	\$1.2K	17	-330	Wafik Abdou – Connie Goldberg	\$1.6K
6	229	Frank Cymerman – Ken Kranyak	\$1.2K	18	-331	Fred Hamilton – Gerald VanGemert	\$1.1K
7	216	Renee Mancuso – Haig Tchamitch	\$1.9K	19	-421	Teri Casen – Larry Cohen	\$1.0K
8	105	Leonard Holtz – Toby Sokolow	\$2.4K	20	-428	Kamel Fergani – Nicolas L'Ecuyer	\$2.2K
9	95	Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	\$2.1K	21	-460	Kyle Larsen – Hansa Narasimhan	\$1.4K
10	85	Mark Epstein – Roberta Epstein	House	22	-477	Bob Hollman – Shawn Quinn	\$1.2K
11	54	Simon Kantor – Murray Melton	\$1.4K	23	-584	Brenda Jacobus – Marc Jacobus	\$1.3K
12	34	Wald'r Frukacz – Jaroslaw Piasecki	\$1.4K	24	-619	Leonard Ernst – Richard Halperin	\$1.0K

Auction Total: \$35,600



## Overall and Session Awards WBP Pairs



Place	Session			Overalls	
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Auction	Players
1 <sup>st</sup>			\$1,500	\$10,692	\$4,536
2 <sup>nd</sup>			\$750	\$ 6,534	\$2,772
3 <sup>rd</sup>				\$ 4,752	\$2,016
4 <sup>th</sup>				\$ 4,158	\$1,764
5 <sup>th</sup>				\$ 3,564	\$1,512

# Cavendish Pairs: Standings After Day Two

Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)	Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)
1	2827.22	Bob Hamman – Zia Mahmood	\$32K	26	-221.00	Gene Freed – Chris Larsen	\$12.5K
2	2773.61	Paul Chemla – Guido Ferraro	\$17K	27	-269.87	Peter Fredin – Magnus Lindkvist	\$28K
3	2456.05	Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	\$35K	28	-310.21	Andrei Gromov – Aleks’der Petrunin	\$21K
4	2342.66	Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes	\$36K	29	-405.78	Gunnar Hallberg – Charles Wigoder	\$13K
5	2154.05	Norberto Bocchi – Giorgio DuBoin	\$53K	30	-420.70	Bill Passell – Aubry Strul	\$12.5K
6	1656.13	Walid Elahmady – Tarek Sadek	\$26K	31	-443.95	Doug Doub – Adam Wildavsky	\$14K
7	1624.00	Billy Miller – Eddie Wold	\$14.5K	32	-444.83	Seymon Deutsch– Paul Soloway	\$12.5K
8	1615.92	Andrea Buratti – Massimo Lanzarotti	\$35K	33	-526.30	Steve Garner – Howard Weinstein	\$28K
9	1353.30	Bart Bramley – Chris Compton	\$15K	34	-594.61	Marty Fleisher – Chip Martel	\$18K
10	1227.08	Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland	\$27K	35	-652.95	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	\$19K
11	1066.66	Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson	\$30K	36	-721.34	Robert Blanchard – Piotr Gawrys	\$12.5K
12	1026.26	Linda Lewis – Paul Lewis	\$12.5k	37	-782.92	Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss	\$30K
13	946.13	Rose Meltzer – Peter Weichsel	\$12.5K	38	-819.13	Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel	\$25K
14	927.13	Brian Glubok – Jim Robison	\$12.5K	39	-1003.39	Drew Casen – Gaylor Kasle	\$14K
15	881.21	Ross Gabel – Jon Wittes	\$21K	40	-1154.00	Peter Bertheau – Fredrik Nystrom	\$27K
16	630.66	Garey Hayden – Mike Passell	\$22K	41	-1162.00	JoAnna Stansby – Lew Stansby	\$12.5K
17	577.74	Mike Cornell – Richard Jedrychowski	\$13K	42	-1324.08	Barnet Shenkin – Harry Tudor	\$12.5K
18	392.00	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	\$41K	43	-1663.26	Perry Johnson – Jeff Meckstroth	\$18K
19	351.74	Cezary Balicki – Adam Zmudzinski	\$38K	44	-1664.08	Amos Kaminsky – Shaya Levit	\$12.5K
20	282.52	Gilad Altschuler – David Birman	\$13K	45	-1725.21	George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	\$12.5K
21	234.65	Billy Cohen – Ron Smith	\$30K	46	-1847.00	Russ Samuel – Shawn Samuel	\$12.5K
22	144.13	Pierre Saporta – Pierre Zim’rman	\$12.5K	47	-2032.08	Joe Grue – Mike Moss	\$13K
23	130.18	Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin	\$13K	48	-2234.56	Dennis Dawson – Eric Rodwell	\$14K
24	104.57	Franck Multon – J-C Quantin	\$25K	49	-2361.70	Gary Cohler – Richie Schwartz	\$13K
25	95.43	Barry Goren – Michael Rosenberg	\$14K	50	-2907.00	Grant Baze – Mike Whitman	\$12.5K

Auction Total: \$1,020,500



## Overall and Session Awards Cavendish Pairs



Place	Session					(From Players' Pool)	Overalls	
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>		Auction	Players
1 <sup>st</sup>			\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	(\$5,000)	\$243,308	\$26,810
2 <sup>nd</sup>			\$2,500	\$2,500	\$10,000	(\$3,000)	\$156,412	\$17,236
3 <sup>rd</sup>			\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ 5,000	(\$2,500)	\$104,274	\$11,490
4 <sup>th</sup>					\$ 3,000		\$ 78,206	\$ 8,618
5 <sup>th</sup>							\$ 69,516	\$ 7,660
6 <sup>th</sup>							\$ 60,828	\$ 6,702
7 <sup>th</sup>							\$ 52,138	\$ 5,744
8 <sup>th</sup>							\$ 43,448	\$ 4,788
9 <sup>th</sup>							\$ 34,760	\$ 3,830
10 <sup>th</sup>							\$ 26,070	\$ 2,872

# Don't Count Me Out Just Yet

by Sam Leckie, Scotland

So you think Donald Rumsfeld has problems? Just look at the positions of my Big Five and you'll realize mine are far worse than his. Here are my Big Five's placings with only one session to go:

Bocchi-Duboin	5 <sup>th</sup>
Elahmady-Sadek	6 <sup>th</sup>
Levin-Weinstein	18 <sup>th</sup>
Balicki-Zmudzinski	19 <sup>th</sup>
Garner-Weinstein	33 <sup>rd</sup>

Before you laugh at me just remember that three of my five selections were 1-2-3 in the auction price list so I'm not the only one with a red face. The one consolation is that last

year it was just as bleak, until Gitelman-Moss finished in a blaze of glory and won on the post.

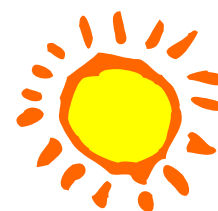
My final rallying call to my boys is "Go-go-go." Just in case you've forgotten it's not just my reputation you're playing for. There's also a few dollars at stake. I know, however, that's the least of your thoughts.

One final thought. Someone once said it's not the winning that's important, it's the taking part. I wish that guy could tell me why that about 5 pm today only two out of the hundred guys and dolls will be jumping with joy. Well, maybe three if it's one of my five.

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## Come to the sun



# 10<sup>th</sup> Red Sea International Bridge Festival

Eliat-Israel, November 14-21, 2004  
Isrotel Royal Beach Hotel in Eliat.



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November 15, 16	IMP Pairs
November 17, 18, 19	Open Pairs
November 20	Teams



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# The Cavendish Pairs: Day One (Redux) and Day Two

## Session Two:

Bd: 7	♠ K1098		
Dlr: South	♥ K72		
Vul: Both	♦ A10854		
	♣ 6		
♠ A765		♠ Q4	
♥ AQ6543		♥ 8	
♦ Q		♦ J62	
♣ 83		♣ AKQ10975	
	♠ J32		
	♥ J109		
	♦ K973		
	♣ J42		

What would we do without Deep Finesse? We looked yesterday at 3NT by E/W and how the defense can unscramble the overkill in diamonds. Now try 5♣ by East on the spade lead found at the table against Adam Wildavsky. North wins the ♠K at trick one and shifts to a trump. Declarer wins and leads a diamond up, forcing South to win and lead a second trump. Declarer, with six of the last seven tricks but needing them all, wins and runs trumps, reaching the following position:

	♠ 1098		
	♥ K72		
	♦ A		
	♣ ---		
♠ A76		♠ Q	
♥ AQ65		♥ 8	
♦ ---		♦ J6	
♣ ---		♣ 975	
	♠ J3		
	♥ J109		
	♦ 97		
	♣ ---		

South leads the ♣9 pitching a heart from dummy, and North begins to feel the pressure. A diamond or a spade give up a trick immediately, so North must throw a heart. Now East plays another trump throwing another heart from dummy, and any pitch North makes is fatal.



Tools of the trade

Bd: 10	♠ K75		
Dlr: East	♥ A1085		
Vul: Both	♦ QJ10		
	♣ Q62		
♠ 962		♠ A108	
♥ KJ32		♥ 7	
♦ K7		♦ A8642	
♣ J975		♣ A1084	
	♠ QJ43		
	♥ Q964		
	♦ 953		
	♣ K3		

Alain Levy and Herve Mouiel cooperated for one of the most elegant defenses of the event. Against 3♣ (1♦-1♥; 2♣-3♣) Alain led the ♠4 (third and fifth) to the king and ace. Declarer crossed to the ♦K to pass the ♣7 to Alain's king. Back came a low spade, and Herve won his king, then very carefully cashed the ♥A and led a spade to Alain's jack. When Levy led the fourth spade for a ruff-sluff Mouiel could discard a diamond; now it did not matter which hand declarer took his ruff in. He could not draw trumps without losing a diamond trick, and if he tried to ruff a diamond Mouiel would score the ♣Q via an overruff.

Bd: 11	♠ J932		
Dlr: South	♥ Q75		
Vul: None	♦ 3		
	♣ AKJ107		
♠ Q1087		♠ K4	
♥ KJ64		♥ A103	
♦ AK754		♦ 1086	
♣ ---		♣ Q9643	
	♠ A65		
	♥ 982		
	♦ QJ92		
	♣ 852		
West	North	East	South
<i>Woolsey</i>		<i>Stewart</i>	
			Pass
1♦	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Stewart-Woolsey managed to get the maximum on this deal. On a diamond lead to the king, Woolsey shifted to the ♠7 (a heart would have been better) and declarer erred by covering with the nine, king, ace. Declarer returned a spade. Woolsey won the queen and continued with a third spade: ♠8, J, ♣3, 6. Now a low heart to the king was followed by a heart to the ten. Stewart cashed the ♥A and exited with a diamond, ruffed by declarer. This was the position:

♠ 3		
♥ ---		
♦ ---		
♣ AKJ10		
♠ 8		♠ ---
♥ J		♥ ---
♦ 754		♦ 10
♣ ---		♣ Q964
	♠ ---	
	♥ ---	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ 852	

Declarer could do nothing but lead the ♣A, then the ♣10. Stewart won his queen and played back a low club, and now the spade loser would not go away—either the ♣9 would score or the spade would have to be conceded at the end.

Bd: 20	♠ KJ876	
Dlr: West	♥ 3	
Vul: Both	♦ KJ3	
	♣ QJ109	
♠ 542		♠ AQ10
♥ QJ4		♥ A10875
♦ 954		♦ 86
♣ 7542		♣ A86
	♠ 93	
	♥ K962	
	♦ AQ1072	
	♣ K3	

The N/S pairs were going for large numbers around the room, and Al Roth, the patron saint of sound openings, would say "I told you so." Billy Cohen was in a position to collect a different large number as East. Having missed the play at the table he did well to spot the winning maneuver in the post mortem to pass it on to the Bulletin. He declared 2♥ doubled [1♠-(2♥)-P-(P); Dbl-AP] and won the ♠9 lead cheaply in hand. The defense was threatening a spade ruff, so if declarer delays drawing trumps they will obtain an easy sixth trick. Try leading a low heart up. Dummy's queen holds. Now what? If you play a spade they get a ruff; if you lead a heart to the ten, that holds, too. The defense doesn't get a ruff but you lose your third spade trick. The winning move is to lead the ♥10 at trick two! This gives you your entry to dummy when you need it; the defense only gets one heart trick now.



"Doesn't anyone around here want an omelette?"

Bd: 22	♠ A85		
Dlr: East	♥ J1098		
Vul: E/W	♦ KJ109		
	♣ 106		
♠ 763		♠ QJ942	
♥ Q73		♥ A5	
♦ Q7		♦ A82	
♣ KJ943		♣ Q87	
	♠ K10		
	♥ K642		
	♦ 6543		
	♣ A52		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doub</i>		<i>Wildavsky</i>	
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Adam Wildavsky defended 3♦ nicely here. On the spade lead to the jack and king, declarer led a diamond to the jack, which held, then a club to the ace and a diamond to the queen, king and ace. Adam found the low heart play and when declarer ducked, Doug Doub won his queen and returned a heart, letting Adam play a club to get his heart ruff for down one.

### Session Three:

Bd: 6	♠ KJ5432		
Dlr: East	♥ ---		
Vul: E/W	♦ J97		
	♣ J862		
♠ AQ7		♠ ---	
♥ Q652		♥ AK1097	
♦ Q852		♦ K643	
♣ KQ		♣ 9754	
	♠ 10986		
	♥ J843		
	♦ A10		
	♣ A103		

Virtually the entire field went down here—one way or the other. Some E/W pairs climbed to 6♥; South had a pretty fair double of that (Lev-Pszczola collecting +800). Even 4♥ by the long hand could not come home when repeated spade leads created a trump trick for the defenders.

At the table where we were ensconced, Brian Glubok declared 4♠ doubled after Bjorn Fallenius to his left opened 1♥ and showed short spades. Very reasonably (to our minds) he ran the ♣J, then repeated the finesse. Now he lost two clubs and a ruff for -300.

Buratti-Lanzarotti were the only E/W we saw to cope with their cards efficiently. Against Grabel-Wittes the auction went:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Wittes	Buratti	Grabel
		Pass	Pass
1♣(1)	2♠	3♥	3♠
3NT	All Pass		
(1) 15-17 balanced, or 15+ with clubs, or any G.F.			

Wittes expected Grabel to have the hearts locked up so did not save. (Grabel thought he had the hearts under control, too.) Lanzarotti won the opening spade lead with the queen and played a heart to the ace, discovering the position in that suit. He ran the ♥10 as Wittes pitched two diamonds, then called for a low diamond prepared to guess that suit correctly. Grabel rose with the ace and Lanzarotti now had an easy ten tricks; +630.

Bd: 7	♠ Q4		
Dlr: South	♥ J8754		
Vul: Both	♦ A4		
	♣ K1042		
♠ 1098		♠ AKJ	
♥ 6		♥ AQ1032	
♦ KJ653		♦ Q97	
♣ J975		♣ Q6	
	♠ 76532		
	♥ K9		
	♦ 1082		
	♣ A83		

Both Goren-Rosenberg and Bocchi-Duboin appeared to be having good sets. Neither pair did their chances any harm here. Rosenberg as East overcalled Balicki's 1♥ opening with 1NT and was overjoyed to hear his LHO raise to 2♥ and his partner produce a negative double. He sat it out, of course, and led the ♠A, then shifted to the ♥A and a second heart. Declarer could arrange to score two clubs, one diamond, and three trumps but that was still -500.

Bocchi did even better. He opened 1♥ in fourth seat and over his partner's 1NT response relayed with 2♣, then raised his partner's 2NT bid (both minors, less than 8 HCP) to 3NT. On the ♠Q lead Duboin drove out the ♦A when the defense could not hold up for two rounds, and now had nine tricks.



The WBP brunch buffet

Bd: 16	♠ QJ952		
Dlr: West	♥ AKJ75		
Vul: E/W	♦ Q3		
	♣ 2		
♠ A3		♠ K876	
♥ 106		♥ Q84	
♦ K5		♦ 107642	
♣ J1097643		♣ Q	
	♠ 104		
	♥ 932		
	♦ AJ98		
	♣ AK85		

Chip Martel received a testing defense on a low diamond lead (third/fifth) against 4♥ (well, not quite as testing as a low spade lead). Now he had to decide which basket to put all his eggs in: the one with the diamond finesse winning or the one with both majors behaving. The unopposed auction had been: P-1♠; 2♣-2♥; 2NT-3♥; 4♥. He elected to rise with the ♦A, then cash the ♥AK (very wisely) and only then to take the ♣AK to pitch his diamond. He now had a fairly good idea that his LHO was 4=3=5=1 or 5=2=5=1. Since his RHO appeared to have a spade honor Chip led a low spade from dummy to his queen. East might have done better to duck this but declarer would still have had trump control to bring in the spades.

Bd: 19	♠ AQ84		
Dlr: South	♥ KJ64		
Vul: E/W	♦ 4		
	♣ K732		
♠ ---		♠ J10965	
♥ ---		♥ AQ52	
♦ AKJ7652		♦ Q3	
♣ AJ9865		♣ Q10	
	♠ K732		
	♥ 109873		
	♦ 1098		
	♣ 4		

Probably every table had its story to tell on this deal. No one did any better with the E/W cards than play 6♣ or 6♦. However, some did considerably worse. For example, when Barnet Shenkin held the North cards he doubled 1♦ and heard 1♠ on his left, 3♥ (value-showing) from his partner, 4♣ on his right, so he bid 4♥. That was doubled on his left and his RHO ran to 5♣, which he (perhaps naively, perhaps craftily) doubled. When his LHO retreated to 5♦ that ended the auction.

Guido Ferraro as North heard the auction start (1♦)-Dbl-(Rdbl)-3♥; 6♣. When his opponents settled in 6♦ he saved in 6♥. The defense was merciless: Buratti led the ♦AK and when Chemla ruffed and crossed to the ♠K to lead a club up Buratti hopped up with the ♣A to play a third diamond to let

Lanzarotti discard his ♣Q and collect +800. Still, that was much better than -1370.

Hamman-Zia did even better: as N/S they bid diamonds three times!

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦
4♣	4♦	5NT(1)	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	Dbl	Pass
7♣	Dbl	All Pass	
(1) Pick-a-slam			

That was +200 for them.

Bd: 22	♠ 82		
Dlr: East	♥ 2		
Vul: E/W	♦ 10432		
	♣ AKQ876		
♠ 653		♠ AQJ97	
♥ 1095		♥ KQJ43	
♦ AK95		♦ 6	
♣ J94		♣ 32	
	♠ K104		
	♥ A876		
	♦ QJ87		
	♣ 105		

The field was getting into a lot of trouble here. 3♠ down two or three undoubled was pretty much average. But only one pair managed to collect a significant penalty that we saw. When Bramley-Compton were N/S the auction went: (1♠)-P-(2♠)-3♠; (3♥)-P-(4♠)-P; (P)-Dbl-AP. The defense cashed two clubs, then shifted to the singleton heart. Compton gave Bramley his ruff and now a third club forced declarer to ruff with the ♠A just to escape for -800.

Paul Chemla did well in the bidding on our next exhibit, on a hand where the field was regretting being declarer at pretty much every table.

Bd: 23	♠ AK7653		
Dlr: South	♥ AJ98		
Vul: Both	♦ Q10		
	♣ 4		
♠ 10942		♠ QJ	
♥ 63		♥ KQ102	
♦ K75		♦ A642	
♣ 10972		♣ AK6	
	♠ 8		
	♥ 754		
	♦ J983		
	♣ QJ853		

Sitting East Chemla doubled 1♠ and heard his partner respond 2♣. When his RHO rebid 2♠ Paul passed! Maybe there is no such thing as a bad 19-count, but if ever there was, this is it. 2♠ went quietly down 200, while it is hard to see that E/W could have stopped in a sensible spot (2NT is their last making contract) if Paul had bid again.

Special credit goes to Fantoni-Nunes. Nunes doubled a strong club as East (blacks or reds) and Fantoni bid 1♦. When Hampson bid 1♠ as North, Nunes doubled again, and passed 2♦, going +90—the only player in either direction to make his contract.

#### Session Four:

Bd: 1	♠ 10852		
Dlr: North	♥ AK104		
Vul: None	♦ J106		
	♣ 104		
♠ KQ7		♠ AJ943	
♥ J875		♥ Q93	
♦ AK		♦ Q74	
♣ AQ87		♣ K2	
	♠ 6		
	♥ 62		
	♦ 98532		
	♣ J9653		

As opening bids decline in expected high-card strength, people rarely adjust their expectations facing them. Perhaps their declarer play is improving by virtue of needing to stretch their limited assets further. Eric Greco is a realist. Since he and Geoff Hampson open lighter even than the rest of the field, he was not convinced of the need to make even one slam try when he picked up a control-rich 19-count and heard his partner open 1♠. His auction was: 1♠-2♣; 2NT(11-13)-3♠; 3NT-4♣; 4♠-P. With the heart ruff looming against the suit game it was necessary to stop at 4♣ just to go plus.

Bd: 2	♠ K10		
Dlr: East	♥ KQ75		
Vul: N/S	♦ KQJ74		
	♣ KJ		
♠ 93		♠ QJ87642	
♥ 1096		♥ AJ8	
♦ 1063		♦ A98	
♣ 109762		♣ ---	
	♠ A5		
	♥ 432		
	♦ 52		
	♣ AQ8543		

This next board was equally exciting for North players. Brian Glubok must have been irritated to pick up an 18-count, hear his partner overcall at the two level, and find he could not



make game. Hampson led a top spade against 3NT [(1♠)-2♣-(P)-3NT] and Glubok won his king and played the ♣K to get the bad news, then the ♦K, carefully ducked by Hampson. Now declarer could not come close to nine tricks.

Bd: 4	♠ A10985		
Dlr: West	♥ A9732		
Vul: Both	♦ Q		
	♣ 65		
♠ Q742		♠ J63	
♥ 10		♥ KQ864	
♦ A752		♦ KJ1096	
♣ AQ97		♣ ---	
	♠ K		
	♥ J5		
	♦ 843		
	♣ KJ108432		

3NT is a contract with some potential, while it was also possible for E/W to make a living doubling their opponents in 2♥ or 3♣—though it was not so easy to sit for either double. Hallberg-Wigoder reached 3NT on the unopposed sequence: 1♠-2♥; 2NT-3♦; 3NT. On a club lead declarer won cheaply, led a heart to the queen, a diamond to the ace, a diamond to the king, and a spade toward his hand for nine tricks.

It was not so easy to make eleven tricks in 5♦ unless you received a club lead (and even then...). Obviously the spade ruff might beat you, and even without that tricks are at a premium. Richard Jedrychowski played 5♦ doubled as West on the ♥A lead (after North had overcalled 1♦ with 1♠) as South unblocked the ♥J. A heart was continued and Richard put in dummy's eight and pitched a spade, then drew three rounds of trumps, cashed the ♥KQ pitching two more spades to reach this ending:

	♠ A109		
	♥ 9		
	♦ ---		
	♣ 65		
♠ Q		♠ J63	
♥ ---		♥ 6	
♦ 7		♦ J10	
♣ AQ97		♣ ---	
	♠ K		
	♥ ---		
	♦ ---		
	♣ KJ1084		

The ♠Q now left South on play to lead a club for two discards from dummy or forced North to play the ace and set up the ♠J. Either way declarer had eleven tricks—a perfect wink!

Bd: 13	♠ J876		
Dlr: North	♥ K973		
Vul: Both	♦ 843		
	♣ 95		
♠ 4		♠ Q105	
♥ A862		♥ J	
♦ 10972		♦ KJ65	
♣ K1032		♣ QJ876	
	♠ AK932		
	♥ Q1054		
	♦ AQ		
	♣ A4		

The normal contract here is 4♣ and one way or another the deal reduces to finding the ♠Q coming down in two rounds (no such luck) or finding the ♥J. The typical sequence of plays is to win a diamond lead, cash the ♠AK, then take the remaining diamond winners to play ace and another club. East should win, cash his ♠Q, then exit with a third diamond leaving declarer to ruff and negotiate hearts for himself. Since he intends to play West for the ♥J he might as well start by leading the ♥Q. This only gains over the straight 50 percent chance when East has the bare jack, but those little percentage points add up, don't they?

Bd: 16	♠ K6		
Dlr: West	♥ KQJ7		
Vul: E/W	♦ A653		
	♣ J106		
♠ 9		♠ 87	
♥ A9865		♥ 1032	
♦ KJ4		♦ Q82	
♣ AK32		♣ Q9874	
	♠ AQJ105432		
	♥ 4		
	♦ 1097		
	♣ 5		

A surprisingly high percentage of the field made 4♣ here. Some defenses had the excuse of a transfer auction making North declarer after West's 1♥ opening and a 1NT overcall by North. (Mind you, an anti-lead directing double of the transfer bid might get East off to a decent opening lead.) Fallenius-Welland set 4♣ doubled after 1♥-(P)-1♠-(4♣); Dbl-AP where the 1♠ bid was a forcing 1NT equivalent. Fallenius led the ♣A and Welland discouraged, suggesting that a shift to diamonds was acceptable. That allowed Fallenius to play a low diamond, and though declarer ducked, the defense could continue the attack on diamonds, and Welland's count card made it clear which minor-suit winner was cashing.

Since Altschuler-Birman registered +1080 and there were quite a few 690s here, those who registered -450 did not lose as much as they might have feared.

Bd: 20	♠ QJ53		
Dlr: West	♥ AKQ102		
Vul: Both	♦ ---		
	♣ K432		
♠ K86		♠ A92	
♥ J		♥ 653	
♦ J96543		♦ AK108	
♣ Q109		♣ A65	
	♠ 1074		
	♥ 9874		
	♦ Q72		
	♣ J87		

to generate maximum interest. 3♦ would have been easy, 5♦ impossible, but 4♦ was just right. The auction was:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Pass
2♦	Dbl	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	All Pass

The defense started with two top hearts. Doub ruffed, crossed to the ♦K, then led three rounds of spades. Either defender could take this, but neither could do anything better than let Doub win the first club trick cheaply. Doub responded by crossing to the ♦A and exiting with the third diamond, endplaying the defenders to lead clubs for a second, fatal, time.

Doug Doub and Adam Wildavsky got to the right level here

## Images of Our Game



"Okay, who swiped my pants?"



"And awa-a-ay, we go..."



Weapons of mass destruction?



"Next we will sing *Nearer My God To Thee*. Please turn to page 23 in your hymn books."



"Don't look up, he'll think you want to bid on those turkeys."