

World Bridge Productions
Presents the
C  **avendish** wbp
Invitational

Bulletin Number 1

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Editor: Rich Colker

Welcome to the 32nd Annual Cavendish Invitational

World Bridge Productions welcomes you to the 2006 Cavendish Pairs, John Roberts Teams and World Bridge Productions Pairs. This year Bridge Base is once again providing live Internet VuGraph coverage of the Teams and Pairs (surf to bridgebase.com). The on-site auctions will, as usual, feature George Jacobs, Chris Compton and whomever else we can coerce into making a fool of himself.

The five-session Cavendish Invitational Pairs features a star-studded forty-six star field (see page 3) while the three-session John Roberts Teams, in its prize-only format, anticipates fourteen entrants (see page 2). The three-session WBP Pairs sports its own 20+-star field (see page 3). The complete schedule for this year's tournament in on page 2.



Once again this year's field includes many of the world's top players. It's good to see so many of our friends and familiar faces back again. In the spirit of friendship and good bridge we welcome you to the 2006 Cavendish Invitational. We hope you have fun and we wish everyone a successful experience.

This year's great new venue is the Green Valley Ranch. We hope you enjoy the resort's many first-class amenities. Have a pleasant stay in Las Vegas, and good bridge to all!

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

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.

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.

Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Activity	Location
Wednesday, May 10	11:30 AM	Opening Brunch Banquet/Teams Auction	Opium Terrace (by pool)
	1:00 PM	1 st Session, Teams	Estancia DEFG
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, Teams	Estancia DEFG
Thursday, May 11	12:00 PM	3 rd (final) Session, Teams	Estancia DEFG
	6:15 PM	Cocktail Party	Grand Ballroom 3/4
	7:00 PM	Pairs Auction	(Grand Events Center)
Friday, May 12	12:30 PM	1 st Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	7:30 PM	2 nd 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 rd Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	12:30 PM	1 st Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
	7:30 PM	4 th Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
Sunday, May 14	12:00 PM	5 th Session, Pairs	Estancia DEFG
	12:00 PM	3 rd Session, WBP Pairs	Estancia ABC
	4:30 PM	Closing Party	

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 **Jean-Christophe Quantin**, Marc Bompis, Alain Levy, Herve Mouiel
- 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**, Fared Assemi, Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Ed Wojewoda
- 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 Narasimham (NPC)**, Boye Brogeland, Ishmael DelMonte, 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

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

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

Pair #	Pair #
1 Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	26 Drew Casen – Jim Krekorian
2 Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	27 Vincent Demuy – Gavin Wolpert
3 Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes	28 Jill Levin – Jill Meyers
4 Geoff Hampson – Eric Rodwell	29 Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin
5 Boye Brogeland – Ishmael DelMonte	30 Zia Mahmood – Andrew Robson
6 Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland	31
7 Gary Cohler – Howard Weinstein	32 Franck Moulton – Pierre Zimmermann
8 Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	33 Marty Fleisher – Chip Martel
9 Grant Baze – Gaylor Kasle	34 Neil Chambers – John Schermer
10 Richie Schwartz – Chris Willenken	35
11 Piotr Bizon – Michael Kwiecien	36 Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey
12 Michael Elinescu – Entscho Wladow	37 Marc Bompis – Jean-Christophe Quantin
13 Curtis Cheek – Joe Grue	38 David Berkowitz – Billy Pollack
14 Gilad Altschuler – Piotr Gawrys	39 Bob Blanchard – Jeff Meckstroth
15 Waleed ElAhmady – Tarek Sadek	40 Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn
16 Bob Hamman – Justin Lall	41 Ton Bakkeren – Huub Bertens
17 Alex Dubinin – Andrei Gromov	42 Bart Bramley – Barry Rigal
18 Christal Henner-Welland – Michael Kamil	43 Mathias Bruun – Peter Fredin
19 Amos Kaminski – Shaya Levit	44 Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn
20 Steve Landen – Pratap Rajadhyaksha	45
21 George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	46 JoAnna Stansby – Lew Stansby
22 Michael Cornell – Michael Rosenberg	47
23 Peter Lakatos – Gabor Rinkler	48 Guido Ferraro – Augustin Medala
24 Chris Compton – Mike Passell	49 Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel
25 Zoltan Nagy – Bob Richman	50 Antonio Sementa – Alfredo Versace

Last Year's Cavendish

(Adapted from articles by Barry Rigal)

The Teams:

The John Roberts Teams was won by Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin.

Bd: 3	♠ Q985
Dir: South	♥ A73
Vul: E/W	♦ J3
	♣ AK63
♠ 10	♠ KJ2
♥ K1098652	♥ J4
♦ A85	♦ K1097
♣ Q10	♣ 9872
	♠ A7643
	♥ Q
	♦ Q642
	♣ J54

Not everybody managed to reach 4♠ here, and of those who did, not everybody made it.

Two of the successful declarers were Vince Demuy and Bobby Levin. Demuy played 4♠ as South on the auction:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

He ran the heart lead to his queen, then led a diamond to the jack and king. Back came a club so he put up the jack, covered by the queen and king. Now he played a second diamond and West took his ace to try and give his partner a heart ruff. Demuy took the ♥A pitching a club, and knew enough of West's high cards to lead the ♠Q to hold his spade losers to one.

Bobby Levin had an even harder task. He played 4♠ as North on the auction:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbf
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

He received the ♥J lead to the queen, king and ace. He ruffed a heart, then led a diamond to the jack and king. Now he ducked the ♦10, and when a club came back he played low from dummy and won his king. He needed spades to be two-two, in which case he would have no problem. But if West were 1=7=3=2 now, assuming that the ♦A was on his right, the odds favored a singleton ♠J or ♠10 over the king.

Thus he also guessed to lead the ♠Q and pin the ten.

Next, Eddie Wold and Mike Passell managed to cope with the problems on Board 17 beautifully.

Bd: 17	♠ QJ105
Dir: North	♥ 2
Vul: None	♦ J964
	♣ AJ83
♠ K9	♠ A832
♥ AKJ865	♥ 1074
♦ A10732	♦ KQ
♣ ---	♣ 10965
	♠ 764
	♥ Q93
	♦ 85
	♣ KQ742

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>		<i>Wold</i>	
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dbf	2♦(1)	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♦(2)	Pass
4NT(3)	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
(1) Heart raise, 7-10 HCP			
(2) Last Train: slam try, not necessarily with a ♦ control			
(3) Spade cue-bid			

This next deal was also a bidding problem. It is never easy to reach a Grand Slam when one player has a void facing the other player's long suit.

Bd: 20	♠ K3
Dir: West	♥ KQ753
Vul: Both	♦ KJ
	♣ A1096
♠ 962	♠ 10874
♥ AJ1062	♥ 984
♦ Q42	♦ 985
♣ J3	♣ 852
	♠ AQJ5
	♥ ---
	♦ A10763
	♣ KQ74

On this deal Curtis Cheek and Joe Grue had a perfect auction to reach 7♣:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Grue</i>		<i>Cheek</i>
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦(2)
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
All Pass			
(1) Strong, artificial			
(2) Key Card Blackwood			

Cheek's 2♦ response was natural but showed 12+ HCP, and his subsequent 3♣ guaranteed 4=0=5=4 distribution. So the Blackwood responses showed the missing key cards, since the ♥A would be ignored. Cheek knew Grue had the ♠A and at least four clubs without three diamonds since he had not raised that suit or given preference to it. Easy!

Bd: 9	♠ AJ1085		
Dir: North	♥ 1052		
Vul: E/W	♦ 82		
	♣ 1084		
♠ K62		♠ 7	
♥ A63		♥ QJ9	
♦ 10764		♦ AKQ5	
♣ QJ9		♣ K7652	
	♠ Q943		
	♥ K874		
	♦ J93		
	♣ A3		

There are two stories on this deal. Hamman-Zia bid to 5♦ on the unopposed sequence: 1♦-1NT; 2♣-2♥; 3♥-4♦; 5♦. The contract looks easy enough, but against this sequence Antonio Sementa (playing with Mike Moss) found a great lead, the ♠Q! The defense continued the attack on spades, promoting the ♦J for their third trick. Hansa Narasimhan and JoAnna Stansby were holding the same cards, and showed how to do it.

West	North	East	South
	2♠	Dbl	3♥(1)
Dbl	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
(1) Good raise in spades			

Try to beat 5♦ played by the weak hand (but don't try too hard...you can't).



Bd: 7	♠ 83		
Dir: South	♥ 865		
Vul: Both	♦ QJ2		
	♣ AJ1043		
♠ QJ1096		♠ 754	
♥ KJ7		♥ Q93	
♦ 109		♦ K853	
♣ K52		♣ Q97	
	♠ AK2		
	♥ A1042		
	♦ A764		
	♣ 86		

Billy Pollack led the ♠J (Rusinow) against 2NT, ducked by declarer. Billy now found the devastating shift of the ♦10. Maybe declarer should duck, but he covered and David Berkowitz ducked, of course. Declarer came to hand with the ♠A and advanced a low club. Pollack rose with the king to stop the run of the clubs. Now declarer had two spades, one heart, three diamonds (thanks to the fall of the ♦109 he can establish the ♦76) but only one club winner for seven tricks.

By contrast, Jacek Pszczola as North bid 3NT over Sam Lev's 1NT opening. Lev won the spade lead and led a low club. When West did not play the king Sam had ten tricks available by establishing both minors.

Gavin Wolpert played 3NT on a spade lead ducked and a second spade. He won, led a club to the king and ace, and drove out the ♣Q. Now East had to shift to a heart to set the game. When he played a third spade declarer won and drove out the ♦K and had nine tricks.

Bobby Levin led the ♠Q against 3NT and continued the suit when declarer ducked. A club went to the king and ace and declarer ran the ♣J, then played a third club. Weinstein won as Levin followed with the deuce then five, suggesting suit preference for hearts. So Weinstein shifted to a heart rather than continuing spades to set the game.

In the final match Welland was matched against Altschuler, leading by 6 IMPs. So Altschuler needed to win the match by 3 IMPs or more to take the event on a split tie.

Bd: 24	♠ AQ65		
Dir: West	♥ A6		
Vul: None	♦ 8654		
	♣ J75		
♠ J10		♠ 872	
♥ K		♥ J9	
♦ AQJ7		♦ K10932	
♣ A109843		♣ Q62	
	♠ K943		
	♥ Q10875432		
	♦ ---		
	♣ K		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bizon</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Polish (natural or 11-14 balanced)			
(2) 0-7 HCP			

Kwiecien's 1♦ negative stopped E/W from finding their diamond fit. 4♥ had twelve top tricks when the majors behaved, but would this be good or bad? It turned out to be very good when at the other table the auction was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Altschuler</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	?

South thought for a very long time but eventually passed, and conceded –130. That was 12 IMPs to Welland, who won the match by 1 IMP and thus finished winners by 8 VPs from Altschuler and the Deutsch team, equal in second place. Had South acted, Weinstein would surely have sacrificed in 5♦, and then the tournament would have hinged on Birman's action. If he passes or doubles Welland hangs on to win. If he bids 5♥ the Altschuler team would have taken the event.

Final Rank	Team Members	VPs
1	Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein	179
2/3	Gilad Altschuler, David Birman, Piotr Bizon, Michael Kwiecien	171
2/3	Seymon Deutsch, Paul Soloway, Billy Cohen, Ron Smith, Tarek Sadek, Walid Elahmady	171



Bobby Levin, Bjorn Fallenius, Roy Welland, Steve Weinstein

The Pairs:

As usual, the auction produced a pool of money close to a million dollars. This year the field was slightly smaller than in the past, but there was an emphasis on quality not, quantity, with comfortably more than half the field medalists in World or European Championships. Scoring was on cross-IMPs (divide the final numbers by 22 to get the real IMP scores).

Part of the secret of winning at the Cavendish is to bid to bad contracts and bring them home. Joe Grue and Curtis Cheek managed the first part, by bidding to a 3NT contract that was undeniably bad. Now all Curtis had to do was make it.



Bd: 3	♠ 54		
Dir: South	♥ KQ6		
Vul: E/W	♦ Q874		
	♣ QJ104		
	♠ A1086		♠ KJ732
	♥ A9875		♥ 103
	♦ J		♦ K532
	♣ 973		♣ 82
		♠ Q9	
		♥ J42	
		♦ A1096	
		♣ AK65	
West	North	East	South
<i>Lazard</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

If you don't count the first five tricks the defense can take on a spade lead, consider that on a heart lead declarer needs to win the ♠Q and find a bare ♦K on his right or a bare ♦J on his left—and guess which it is. On the ♥7 lead Cheek was in dummy, as Bramley dropped the ♥10, and made no mistake, leading the ♦Q to pin the jack and emerging with ten tricks.

Bd: 7	♠ A1095	
Dlr: South	♥ ---	
Vul Both	♦ KJ63	
	♣ Q10975	
♠ K872		♠ 64
♥ AQ62		♥ KJ97543
♦ 10954		♦ 2
♣ K		♣ 432
	♠ QJ3	
	♥ 108	
	♦ AQ87	
	♣ AJ86	

This is a very tricky hand to bid. Unopposed, Bramley-Lazard bid: 1♦-1♠; 2♠-3♦; 3♠-4♠. Obviously, 5♣ (or even 6♣) is a better spot. Cornell gave Lazard his first respite when he led a diamond to dummy's ace. Lazard ran the ♠Q, ducked, and the ♠J was covered by the king and ace. When Lazard took the losing club finesse Rosenberg underled his ♥A and Lazard thoughtfully pitched a diamond. Cornell won and returned a low heart, which Rosenberg was forced to win as Lazard pitched another diamond. Now Rosenberg was on lead (so no club ruff was possible). He did his best by playing a third heart but Lazard correctly discarded another diamond from hand as he ruffed in dummy, then came to hand with a diamond to draw trumps and make ten tricks.

Had Cornell led the ♥K at his second turn, Lazard would have had to ruff (fearing the club ruff), then lead winning clubs. Rosenberg can't ruff in to give a ruff-and-discard as declarer can ruff in dummy and play a diamond to hand to draw the last trump. So he discards diamonds at every turn.

	♠ 10	
	♥ ---	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ Q	
♠ 87		
♥ 62		immaterial
♦ ---		
♣ ---		
	♠ 3	
	♥ ---	
	♦ Q87	
	♣ ---	

In the four-card ending (after two spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs have been played) declarer leads a

diamond. Rosenberg ruffs and leads a heart for a ruff-and-discard, letting Lazard pitch his last diamond, ruff in dummy, and then lead a diamond to neutralize the last trump.

In the same contract of 4♠, on an auction in which clubs had been bid, Hamman won the diamond lead and advanced the ♠Q, rising with the ace in tribute to Zia (if they don't cover, they don't have it), his partner, for a painless +650. Since Gunnar Hallberg played the two-zero heart fit (having splintered with 3♥ and then rebid 4♥), Fantoni-Nunes played 3NT, and countless E/W pairs were allowed to play 4♥ doubled, this is obviously a more challenging hand to bid than one might have realized.

Bd: 12	♠ AQ	
Dlr: West	♥ K2	
Vul: N/S	♦ Q9652	
	♣ 10654	
♠ 743		♠ 2
♥ A1074		♥ J98653
♦ 73		♦ KJ4
♣ AK82		♣ J93
	♠ KJ109865	
	♥ Q	
	♦ A108	
	♣ Q7	

Defeating 4♠ here turned out to be far more difficult than one would realize. Only Billy Pollack (as far as we know) found the absolutely killing defense of a top club lead and a diamond shift (necessary if declarer is 8=1=2=2, which was possible on an auction where Billy's partner had preempted in hearts and declarer had shown long spades).

At one table West led a top club against Zia and shifted to a spade (obviously a heart or a second top club would have been fatal). Declarer led a heart to the queen and ace, but when East did not give count, the defenders failed to cash their second club winner and it went away on the ♥K. Zia still needed to guess diamonds, but since at his table West had opened 1♣ and East had not preempted in hearts (he had simply bid 1♥ over 1♦) East was marked with some values. So Zia led the ♦Q and held his diamond losers to one.

Bd: 14	♠ AJ	
Dlr: East	♥ A8	
Vul: None	♦ KQ107	
	♣ Q9653	
♠ Q8743		♠ 65
♥ K1042		♥ J765
♦ 3		♦ AJ865
♣ AJ10		♣ 87
	♠ K1092	
	♥ Q93	
	♦ 942	
	♣ K42	

Seymon Deutsch played 3NT here on a diamond lead to dummy's nine. Next came: a club to the jack and queen, a club to the ten, ♣A, spade to the jack, club (two diamonds and a spade pitched), ♠A, club (a heart and two spades pitched). With the lead in dummy at trick nine (and declarer having taken six tricks) this was the position:

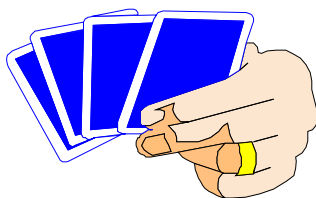
	♠ ---	
	♥ A8	
	♦ KQ10	
	♣ ---	
♠ Q		♠ ---
♥ K1042		♥ J7
♦ ---		♦ AJ6
♣ ---		♣ ---
	♠ K	
	♥ Q93	
	♦ 4	
	♣ ---	

On the ♦K Fallenius won and played the ♥J but Deutsch covered and his ♥8 was enough to build a ninth trick. If Fallenius ducks the ♦K declarer has only eight tricks.

By contrast, Sidney Lazard (along with Linda Lewis) found the heart switch when in with the ♣10. He continued with the ♥10 on winning the third club and now declarer had only eight tricks.

When Norberto Bocchi declared 3NT on a diamond lead he won cheaply in hand and continued with the ♦K. East took the ace as West pitched a discouraging spade. It was not so easy to find the heart switch now, was it? In fact, the defense played a club and declarer had no problem making his game. If East returns a heart to the ten and ace at trick three declarer can give up a club to West, but the defense can still come to five tricks one way or another.

But declarer's options have not yet been fully exhausted. In fact, the only legitimate winning line after a diamond lead is to win the ♦9 in dummy, finesse the ♠J, cash the ♠A, and lead a club to dummy's king. West must win the ace and since a club exit is futile (as indeed is everything else, although that is not so obvious)—he just gets thrown back in with the third club—he tries the ♥10 which rides around to dummy's queen. Declarer simply cashes the ♠K pitching a diamond, setting up two spades for the defense in the process, then ducks a club to West. He can cash his two spades as North pitches diamonds, but North's hand is now high: He takes three clubs, three spades, two hearts and one diamond.



Bd: 6	♠ A
Dir: East	♥ K53
Vul: E/W	♦ A96
	♣ AK10965
♠ J76	♠ KQ103
♥ QJ1064	♥ 9872
♦ J102	♦ 84
♣ J2	♣ Q43
	♠ 98542
	♥ A
	♦ KQ753
	♣ 87

Franck Multon, East, and Jean-Christophe Quantin, West, showed they could play them as well as they bid them. Their unopposed auction was: P-1♣; 1♠-2♦; 4♦-4NT; 5♠-7♦. Easy to bid, but maybe not so easy to play on a top spade lead. Not so, as Franck demonstrated. He won the ♠A, unblocked the ♥A, cashed the ♦KQ, came to the ♣A, then pitched the second club on the ♥K, ruffed a club, drew the last trump and claimed. (Of course since half the field stopped in game you may well ask whether their journey was really necessary.)

At the end of the first day, and two of five sessions, Levin-Weinstein led Bocchi/Duboin, with Balicki-Zmudzinski third.

Bd: 4	♠ Q953
Dir: West	♥ K108
Vul: Both	♦ K82
	♣ Q64
♠ AK842	♠ J106
♥ 6	♥ A54
♦ AQ1073	♦ J54
♣ 82	♣ A1075
	♠ 7
	♥ QJ9732
	♦ 96
	♣ KJ93

One well-known expert declarer played 4♠ (1♠-1NT; 2♦-2NT; 3♦-4♠) against Walid Elahmady's lead of a low heart. He won the ace, passed the ♠J to the queen, ruffed the ♥K continuation, led a trump to the ten (finding the bad news), and took the losing diamond finesse. When the defense led a third heart he pitched a club, and was now exceedingly unlucky to run into a trump promotion on the fourth round of hearts when that suit split six-three.

Could declarer have improved upon this line? We think so. Though the improvement is minuscule, it happens to matter today. Instead of ruffing the second heart, discard the club at that point. Then there is no trump promotion possible. As far as we can tell, only Alex Dubinin and Krzysztof Lasocki managed to find this line when confronted with the problem

on a heart lead.

Bd: 21	♠ Q54		
Dlr: North	♥ J762		
Vul: N/S	♦ 109		
	♣ A964		
	♠ ---	♠ 109862	
	♥ K10543	♥ AQ8	
	♦ Q532	♦ KJ4	
	♣ J753	♣ 82	
	♠ AKJ73		
	♥ 9		
	♦ A876		
	♣ KQ10		

Declaring 4♠ here Gary Cohler won the diamond lead with his ace and returned a diamond. The defense actually played ♠A and a heart, so Cohler ruffed, carefully cashed the ♠A finding out the bad news, then ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, cashed two clubs, ruffed his last diamond with the ♠Q, and had three top trumps left for ten tricks. In the same position a declarer (who shall remain nameless) ruffed the heart at trick four and led a low trump from hand. Now he was dead: He could not single in his trumps any more.

Maybe the biggest swing in the Cavendish came on the following stylistic decision; would you overcall a natural 1♣ opening at love all, holding ♠ --- ♥ K109732 ♦ J8652 ♣ 65.

Put us down as preemptors, but what do we know? If you bid 3♥, you will defend 4♠, conceding anywhere between 420 and 690. if you pass you will find this to be the full deal.

Bd: 24	♠ ---		
Dlr: West	♥ K109732		
Vul: None	♦ J8652		
	♣ 65		
	♠ K984	♠ QJ10752	
	♥ AJ8	♥ 654	
	♦ 7	♦ A10	
	♣ KJ982	♣ 107	
	♠ A63		
	♥ Q		
	♦ KQ943		
	♣ AQ43		

Bob Hamman played 4♠ after the auction:

West	North	East	South
1♣	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Mike Moss's ♥Q lead may not be best in theory (you can surely always get the ruff later) but it did not matter today.

Hamman set up clubs and emerged with ten tricks. Meckstroth played 4♠ after his opponents had not bid. He won the trump lead in hand and led a club up. The defense took the ♣A and shifted to the ♥Q. Can you blame him for expecting hearts to be five-two? He ducked and lost the heart ruff—down one. Meanwhile, David Birman passed the North hand after Andrea Buratti opened a natural (10-14) 2♣. The auction went more smoothly for the Israelis as a result.

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	2♠	3♦
4♠	5♦	Dbl	All Pass

Birman took eleven easy tricks when the defense could only collect their two red aces. Lev and Pszczola sacrificed in 6♦ over 5♠—technically the par result, we suppose, but one which got even better when their opponents bid on to 6♣. Just to give you an idea of the cross-IMPs at stake on a deal of this sort, if you concede 690 you lose 210 cross-IMPs, while if you make 550 you gain 206 IMPs (in real terms an 18-IMP swing; the winning score on a set is generally about 50 IMPs and the winning score this year was equivalent to 1¼ IMPs per board—a rather higher number than usual).

Despite the above disaster, Buratti-Lanzarotti took over the lead at the start of session four, in front of Berkowitz-Pollack.

On this next deal Sidney Lazard declared 5♦ doubled.

Bd: 11	♠ A72		
Dlr: South	♥ A1094		
Vul: None	♦ 75		
	♣ J842		
	♠ 863	♠ ---	
	♥ Q	♥ KJ6532	
	♦ Q10963	♦ K42	
	♣ K653	♣ AQ97	
	♠ KQJ10954		
	♥ 87		
	♦ AJ8		
	♣ 10		
West	North	East	South
<i>Lazard</i>		<i>Bramley</i>	
			1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
5♦	Dbl	All Pass	

Another tough opening lead position. A trump has something to recommend it, but a club leads to an easy set (and even repeated spade leads work fine). North actually led the ♠A. Lazard ruffed, led a heart to the queen and ace, took the club shift with the ace and cashed the ♥KJ pitching spades as South discarded a spade. Inferring that South's failure to ruff in on the ♥K suggested a vulnerable trump holding, Lazard

led a diamond to the ten and a diamond back and claimed +550. A huge result, of course, since 4♠ was making.

Bd: 17	♠ J5		
Dlr: North	♥ AKQJ987		
Vul: None	♦ 10		
	♣ 762		
♠ Q108		♠ 963	
♥ 42		♥ 1063	
♦ AJ863		♦ Q9752	
♣ AQ10		♣ 43	
	♠ AK742		
	♥ 5		
	♦ K4		
	♣ KJ985		

Brad Moss played this hand well. After 1♥-P-1♠-Dbl; 3♥ he bid 3NT and made ten tricks on a diamond lead. 4♥ is also an acceptable contract, but with the ♣AQ10 offside it has no real play. No? Consider what happens on a diamond lead and continuation. Declarer can draw trumps and pass the ♠J to West. Yes, but what if, as both Michael Rosenberg and Roy Welland demonstrated, the defense shifts to the ♠Q at trick two? Very nicely done, gentlemen.



Andrea Buratti and Massimo Lanzarotti

With one session to go, two new pairs emerged at the top of the pack. Buratti-Lanzarotti of Italy led Lambardi-Ventini of Argentina/Spain, ahead of Levin-Weinstein.

	♠ 864		
	♥ Q74		
	♦ AJ2		
	♣ AJ104		
♠ KQ73		♠ 1092	
♥ A		♥ J86	
♦ KQ105		♦ 7643	
♣ KQ97		♣ 865	
	♠ AJ5		
	♥ K109532		
	♦ 93		
	♣ 32		

On Vugraph Massimo Lanzarotti declared 4♥ on the lead of the ♥A and a top spade switch. He won in hand and led a club to the king and ace, then ran all but one of his trumps, reducing to a six-card ending. Weinstein as West kept one top diamond, three clubs and two spades, and dummy kept exactly the same pattern. Lanzarotti led a club to the jack, ruffed a club, crossed to the diamond ace and exited with a club to West to take the ♠J at trick 13.

By contrast, Geoff Hampson, sitting South, played in 3NT on a top diamond ducked, and a top spade ducked. At this point declarer looks in good shape, but West found the devious shift to the ♣9. Hampson quite reasonably decided to play West for 4-2-5-2 (for example) with a doubleton club honor. Since he could not afford to let East in for a spade continuation, he flew with the ♣A and knocked out the ♥A, letting West cash his five top winners for down one. Even if you believe you would not have fallen for this, you have to admire David Berkowitz for his imagination.

The Italians made no mistakes in the final session, putting together yet another fine set to win handily.

Rank	Pair	Cross-IMPs	Pools (in \$1000s)	
			Auction	Player
1	Andrea Buratti-Massimo Lanzarotti	3365	230	23
2	Balicki-Zmudzinski	2896	148	15
3	Lambardi-Ventini	2361	99	10
4	Levin-Weinstein	1719	74	8
5	Cohler-Willenken	1569	66	7
6	Berkowitz-Pollack	1564	58	6
7	Hamman-Zia	1494	49	5
8	Garner-Weinstein	1456	44	4
9	Greco-Hampson	1294	33	3
10	Multon-Quantin	1204	26	2