

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

Bulletin Number 5

Sunday, May 14, 2006

Editor: Rich Colker

Hampson-Rodwell Still Going Strong

With another two plus sessions, Geoff Hampson and Eric Rodwell have retained their lead at the end of Day Two of the 2006 Cavendish Invitational Pairs. Their score of 2221 is 379 IMPs ahead of second place Huub Bertens and Ton Bakkeren, with 1842. Boye Brogeland and Ishmael Del'Monte, with 1522, fell from second to third place in Day Two while Gilad Altschuler and Piotr Gawrys rose from sixth to fourth place, with 1426. Rising all the way from sixteenth to fifth place are George Jacobs and heavy lifter Ralph Katz. A complete listing of all the scores and rankings after Day Two can be found on page 3.

Assemi-Wojewoda Lead WBP Pairs

With session scores of 316 and 216, Farid Assemi and Ed Wojewoda's total of 532 IMPs is 119 ahead of second-place Fred Hamilton and John Jeffrey, with 413. In third place are Wafik and Abdou (that's Wafik Abdou and Connie Goldberg, Chris). The complete Day One scores and rankings for the WBP Pairs can be found on page 2.

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.

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
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	

2006 WBP Pairs: Standings After Day One (Two Sessions)

Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in\$K)	Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)
1	532	Fared Assemi – Ed Wojewoda	1.6	9	-59	Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	1
2	413	Fred Hamilton – John Jeffrey	1.4	10	-143	Nels Erickson – Marjorie Michelin	1
3	384	Wafik Abdou – Connie Goldberg	1.8	11	-145	Jon Kranyak – Ken Kranyak	2
4	201	David Chechelashvili – David Yang	1.4	12	-171	Marc Jacobus – Lou Ann O'Rourke	1
5	147	Gene Freed – Chris Larsen	1.8	13	-200	Joshua Donn – Marshall Miles	1.2
6	91	Mike Cappelletti Jr. – John Morris	1	14	-301	Rob Crawford – Joe Kivel	1.6
7	50	Jiang Gu – Xiaodong Shi	1.6	15	-326	Barry Schaffer – Colby Vernay	1.8
8	-16	James Cunningham – Frank Treiber III	1	16	-474	Lynn Baker – Kerri Sanborn	1

Auction Total: \$22,200



Overall and Session Awards WBP Pairs

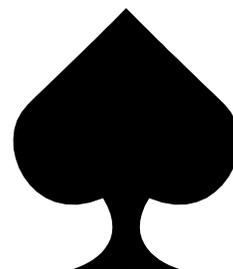
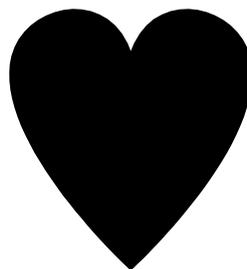
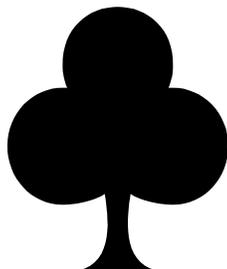
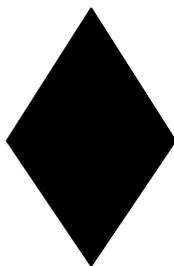


Place	Session			Overalls	
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Auction	Players
1 st			\$1,400	\$7,444	\$3,360
2 nd				\$5,583	\$2,500
3 rd				\$3,722	\$1,680
4 th				\$1,861	\$ 840

2006 Cavendish Pairs: Standings After Day Two

Rank	Score	Pair	Auction Price (in \$K)
1	2221	Geoff Hampson – Eric Rodwell	32
2	1842	Ton Bakkeren – Huub Bertens	14
3	1522	Boye Brogeland – Ishmael Del'Monte	23
4	1426	Gilad Altschuler – Piotr Gawrys	12.5
5	1336	George Jacobs – Ralph Katz	12.5
6	1285	Curtis Cheek – Joe Grue	17
7	1251	Marty Fleisher – Chip Martel	15
8	1216	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	42
9	1097	Neil Chambers – John Schermer	14
10	1094	Gary Cohler – Howard Weinstein	19
11	1004	Antonio Sementa – Alfredo Versace	42
12	828	Zoltan Nagy – Bob Richman	12.5
13	633	Chris Compton – Mike Passell	17
14	534	Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes	43
15	281	Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn	12.5
16	251	Mathias Bruun – Peter Fredin	12.5
17	217	Christal Henner-Welland – Michael Kamil	12.5
18	172	Jill Levin – Jill Meyers	12.5
19	95	Alex Dubinin – Andrei Gromov	16
20	83	Waleed El Ahmady – Tarek Sadek	34
21	60	Vincent Demuy – Gavin Wolpert	14
22	22	Drew Casen – Jim Krekorian	17
23	1	Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	29
24	-5	Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel	25
25	-11	Seymon Deutsch – Paul Soloway	12.5
26	-82	Piotr Bizon – Michael Kwiecien	17
27	-187	Bob Blanchard – Jeff Meckstroth	13
28	-435	Marc Bompis – Jean-Christophe Quantin	16
29	-481	Zia Mahmood – Andrew Robson	48
30	-649	Peter Lakatos – Gabor Winkler	13
31	-651	JoAnna Stansby – Lew Stansby	12.5
32	-801	Bart Bramley – Barry Rigal	12.5
33	-942	Bjorn Fallenius – Roy Welland	21
34	-992	Russ Ekeblad – Ron Rubin	13
35	-996	Steve Landen – Pratap Rajadhyaksha	20
36	-1029	Franck Multon – Pierre Zimmermann	12.5
37	-1033	Michael Elinescu – Entscho Wladow	12.5
38	-1292	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	14
39	-1306	David Berkowitz – Billy Pollack	14
40	-1332	Richie Schwartz – Chris Willenken	12.5
41	-1431	Michael Cornell – Michael Rosenberg	14
42	-1490	Bob Hamman – Justin Lall	17
43	-1537	Grant Baze – Gaylor Kasle	13
44	-2052	Amos Kaminski – Shaya Levit	12.5

Auction Total: \$821,000





Overall and Session Awards Cavendish Pairs



Place	Session					Overalls	
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Auction	Players
1 st	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$193,236	\$21,560
2 nd			\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ 8,000	\$124,223	\$13,860
3 rd			\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 82,816	\$ 9,240
4 th					\$ 3,000	\$ 62,112	\$ 6,930
5 th						\$ 55,210	\$ 6,160
6 th						\$ 48,309	\$ 5,390
7 th						\$ 41,408	\$ 4,620
8 th						\$ 34,507	\$ 3,850
9 th						\$ 27,605	\$ 3,080
10 th						\$ 20,704	\$ 2,310

Assume the Position

Yesterday I discussed this hand, played successfully in 3NT by Bompis and Quantin.

Bd: 8	♠ QJ10	
Dir: West	♥ Q9732	
Vul: None	♦ 64	
	♣ A103	
♠ 32		♠ AK8754
♥ J4		♥ A10
♦ K98732		♦ A5
♣ 765		♣ K98
	♠ 96	
	♥ K865	
	♦ QJ10	
	♣ QJ42	

I noted that only three pairs managed a score of +400, and parenthetically presumed that the other two also achieved

their pluses in 3NT. Well, you know what happens when you assume. Sure enough, Kit Woolsey came up to inform me that he and Fred Stewart played the hand in 5♦ against the Lew and JoAnna Stansby, and the contract is cold on any lead as the cards lie.

When a heart was led, declarer played as follows: ♥A, ♠AK, spade. When South ruffed declarer simply pitched his losing heart and later used the ♣K entry to the good spades to pitch his third club, losing only a trump and a club. If South had discarded on the third spade declarer would ruff, setting up the spades, then cash ♦K followed by a diamond to dummy's ace. He then plays a good spade, and whether South ruffs right away or not declarer pitches his losing heart and later his losing club, using the ♣K as a late dummy entry.

"Curious hand," said Oscar the Owl. "The pointed suits look equivalent, but while 5♦ is cold on any lead, 4♠ has no play."

The 2006 Cavendish Pairs: Day Two

Session Three:

Bd: 1	♠ 7
Dlr: North	♥ A76
Vul: None	♦ AQ105
	♣ AQ865
♠ AQ952	♠ KJ10643
♥ 985	♥ J10432
♦ 98	♦ J6
♣ KJ2	♣ ---
	♠ 8
	♥ KQ
	♦ K7432
	♣ 109743

Board 1 featured five- and six-card suits all around. N/S were in a position to score a lot of IMPs if they could bid and make 6♣ (only six pairs did it, two of them doubled), negotiating the dangerous club position. Just bidding and making 5♠ yielded negative IMPs. Grant Baze and Gaylor Kastle got a bit the worst of it when they competed to 5♠ over Vincent Demuy and Gavin Wolpert's 5♣, got doubled, and went for 500 (-11 IMPs). Not a disaster, but not the way to get back into the hunt either.

Bd: 2	♠ AKQ102
Dlr: East	♥ 64
Vul: N/S	♦ J2
	♣ AQ92
♠ J875	♠ ---
♥ KJ9	♥ A87
♦ A875	♦ KQ10943
♣ K7	♣ J1064
	♠ 9643
	♥ Q10532
	♦ 6
	♣ 853

Baze-Kastle tried to recover some lost IMPs by bidding a very reasonable 6♦ on the next board. But the ♣AQ both turned up offside and -50 did nothing to enhance their IMP total.

Bd: 9	♠ Q
Dlr: North	♥ A962
Vul: E/W	♦ 1094
	♣ AK1054
♠ K1074	♠ 86
♥ QJ3	♥ K105
♦ Q763	♦ AKJ852
♣ 62	♣ Q3
	♠ AJ9532
	♥ 874
	♦ ---
	♣ J987

West	North	East	South
<i>Levit</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Kaminski</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
	1♣	1NT	2♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Amos Kaminski's minor operation, hoping his six-card suit would compensate for a few missing high cards, backfired when Yeshayahu Levit doubled the Egyptians' 4♣ contract and couldn't beat it. El Ahmady ruffed the ♦A lead and played ♠A, spade ruff, diamond ruff, spade ruff. Kaminski overruffed the third spade with the ♣Q (the ♣6 is never around when you need it) and continued with another top diamond, ruffed. El Ahmady now played a low heart off dummy and ducked Levit's queen. The club return was ducked to the jack and now a heart to the ace, ♣A, and another heart established El Ahmady's tenth trick in the form of the thirteenth heart. Plus 510 was worth 156 IMPs.

The fourth round was the most exciting of the tournament, with action on every deal. Here's what happened when Dubinin-Gromov played Blanchard-Meckstroth.

Bd: 10	♠ A765
Dlr: East	♥ ---
Vul: Both	♦ 1097
	♣ AK10532
♠ QJ98	♠ 10
♥ Q86	♥ AK1094
♦ Q8	♦ AKJ32
♣ QJ98	♣ 74
	♠ K432
	♥ J7532
	♦ 654
	♣ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♥	3♣	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Blanchard's 3♦ bid may look natural, but in reality it was an artificial game try. Meckstroth, probably dazed by the array of queen-eight (and nine) combinations, carried on to game. Now Blanchard had another key decision. I must admit that I would have bid 4♥ (or maybe 4♦ on the way) with his hand. But a quick glance at the layout will reveal three top losers and an eventual trump loser in that contract. On the other hand, 3NT was easily manageable.

Gromov led the ♣A and continued the suit hoping for a three-two split and that partner would have enough in the red suits

to stop declarer from scoring nine tricks. When the club situation failed to materialize he made a good play by under-leading his ♠A, hoping that three tricks would materialize in that suit. But again his hopes were dashed when Dubinin won the ♠K, returned the suit and Meckstroth claimed.

On the next deal Blanchard had this bidding problem. Holding ♠AKQJ ♥AJ10876 ♦A82 ♣— he heard two passes followed by a 3♣ opening by Gromov in third seat. He doubled, Dubinin passed on his left, and Meckstroth bid 3NT. Now what? Could Jeff have enough as a passed hand with some obvious wastage in clubs to make slam? Blanchard decided it was unlikely and bid a simple 4♥, but the full deal turned out to be:

Bd: 11	♠ 854		
Dlr: South	♥ 53		
Vul: None	♦ 93		
	♣ AQJ642		
	♠ 63		♠ AKQJ
	♥ K94		♥ AJ10876
	♦ Q654		♦ A82
	♣ K953		♣ ---
		♠ 10972	
		♥ Q2	
		♦ KJ107	
		♣ 1087	

With everything behaving 6♥ is a cake walk, but even +480 was worth positive IMPs.

Bd: 12	♠ 432		
Dlr: West	♥ A932		
Vul: N/S	♦ 75		
	♣ 10865		
	♠ J109865		♠ AK7
	♥ 64		♥ QJ105
	♦ K962		♦ QJ8
	♣ A		♣ K73
		♠ Q	
		♥ K87	
		♦ A1043	
		♣ QJ942	

Another tough decision came when Meckstroth opened a weak 2♠. Playing a modified form of Ogust Blanchard bid 2NT and Jeff bid 3♥, showing a good Weak-Two bid (but not the best). But was it a good Weak-Two bid because of shape (bid 4♠) or because of high cards (bid 3NT)? Bob decided it was the former and bid 4♠, but in this case he couldn't go wrong since both games make. But here +420 lost 24 IMPs. Apparently there were just enough numbers and overtricks to relegate mundane results to below average.

Bd: 15	♠ K3		
Dlr: South	♥ AQ1053		
Vul: N/S	♦ KQ10		
	♣ 1043		
	♠ AQ109754		♠ 62
	♥ K9		♥ J64
	♦ 9		♦ 873
	♣ 876		♣ AKQJ5
		♠ J8	
		♥ 872	
		♦ AJ6542	
		♣ 92	

When Justin Lall opened 4♠ in second seat Piotr Gawrys doubled, thinking he could beat it. He was right—but he was wrong. Gilad Altshuler, South, bid 5♦ and Bob Hamman, East, thought long and hard before he let 5♦ go unmolested. With three top losers in the black suits and a slow heart loser Altshuler finished two down, -200.

Bd: 22	♠ 85		
Dlr: East	♥ 82		
Vul: E/W	♦ KJ987652		
	♣ 8		
	♠ 1097		♠ KJ4
	♥ KJ105		♥ A73
	♦ 4		♦ AQ10
	♣ K9764		♣ A1032
		♠ AQ632	
		♥ Q964	
		♦ 3	
		♣ QJ5	

Pratap Rajadhyaksha is a man with a flair, but it backfired big time on this deal. Chris Compton tried an unpretentious 1♣ opening in the East seat and Steve Landen, South, bid 1♠. Mike Passell, West, made a negative double and Pratap tried 5♦. Compton must have thought Christmas had come early (and who can tell here in the desert?) and "laid wood," as they say, to Mr. R. and +800 was worth 100 IMPs.

Bd: 24	♠ 6		
Dlr: West	♥ QJ106		
Vul: None	♦ KQ543		
	♣ QJ9		
	♠ Q1074		♠ A952
	♥ A52		♥ K987
	♦ J87		♦ 102
	♣ 543		♣ K82
		♠ KJ83	
		♥ 43	
		♦ A96	
		♣ A1076	

The above kind of flair can have subtle effects on partnership bidding; Landen is not losing his hair for no reason. Witness the deal above. Pratap opened 1♥ in second seat and Steve responded 1♠. So far so good. Pratap rebid 1NT and it was time to step up to the plate. So what did Landen do next with that South hand? Bid 3NT? 2NT? Check back for a club fit? Would you believe pass? That's right, kiddies. Plus 180 lost another 59 IMPs.

Bd: 27	♠ Q1043		
Dlr: South	♥ A542		
Vul: None	♦ 83		
	♣ J94		
♠ A98765		♠ 2	
♥ 1086		♥ KJ97	
♦ K106		♦ QJ75	
♣ 6		♣ Q732	
	♠ KJ		
	♥ Q3		
	♦ A942		
	♣ AK1085		

Bridge is all about helping partner, and that is just what Lew Stansby tried to do on this deal. Claudio Nunes opened 1♣ as South and JoAnna Stansby overcalled 1♠ as West. Fulvio Fantoni, North, doubled and Nunes rebid 1NT showing 15-20 with no spade stop. (Have you noticed that the Italians bid differently than the rest of us?) Fantoni bid 2NT and Nunes bid one more for the road. (This was, after all, the final board of the session.)

Looking at the East hand Lew realized that unless he did something to alter the course of the hand JoAnna would lead her suit, and Lew's stiff deuce would not be of much help. On the other hand Fantoni's double suggested the hearts were located on his right, and his holding there could be of more value than his spade. If only he could somehow encourage that lead. Aha, "Double."

JoAnna dutifully led a heart, but as Robert Burns so aptly put it, the best laid plans of mice and men.... Nunes ducked the lead to Lew's king, won the heart return, and cashed the ♠K followed by the ♠J. When JoAnna ducked Claudio overtook the ♠J, led the ♣J off dummy and passed it. When that held he cashed the ♥A and repeated the club finesse for an overtrick; +650. Mama mia.



Session Four:

Here are some interesting deals from Session Four.

Bd: 2	♠ K10		
Dlr: East	♥ K4		
Vul: N/S	♦ AJ872		
	♣ AK82		
♠ 865		♠ 9742	
♥ 9652		♥ Q8	
♦ 10943		♦ KQ65	
♣ 104		♣ 963	
	♠ AQJ3		
	♥ AJ1073		
	♦ ---		
	♣ QJ75		

When the Jills (Meyers and Levin) held the N/S hands it did not take them long to bid their cards to the hilt: 1♥-2♦; 2♠-2NT; 3♣-4♦; 5♣-7♣. (4♦ was RKCB for clubs, and 5♣ showed two key cards plus the ♣Q.) Kit Woolsey led the ♣10 to Jill Levin's queen, and she set about looking for two more tricks to go with her four spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs. How about two diamond ruffs in hand? She crossed to the ♠10, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♣J, led the ♠J to the king, ruffed another diamond, and claimed; +2140



Bd: 4	♠ Q109752		
Dlr: West	♥ 64		
Vul: Both	♦ A53		
	♣ 87		
♠ K643		♠ 8	
♥ K9872		♥ AQJ10	
♦ ---		♦ Q42	
♣ A643		♣ KQJ105	
	♠ AJ		
	♥ 53		
	♦ KJ109876		
	♣ 92		

Bridge can be such a frustrating game. E/W have 9-card fits in both clubs and hearts, and complementary shortnesses in the pointed suits. The ♠K and ♦Q are wasted, yet the other 20 HCP are enough to make 6♥ (or 6♣). When Blanchard-Meckstroth held the E/W cards Jeff opened 1♥ and Elinescu overcalled 1♠. Blanchard splintered with 3♠ and Wladow doubled for the lead, but Meckstroth, looking at bad suits, minimal high cards, and a wasted ♠K (opposite shortness and in front of the spade bidder) simply signed off in 4♥. Only a handful of pairs reached slam. Sometimes this game

is just too tough.

Bd: 16	♠ KJ9	
Dlr: West	♥ K8	
Vul: E/W	♦ 73	
	♣ KJ10853	
♠ 107432		♠ Q86
♥ QJ107		♥ 95
♦ Q42		♦ K1098
♣ 9		♣ AQ62
	♠ A5	
	♥ A6432	
	♦ AJ65	
	♣ 74	

Zia declared 3NT from the South seat and guessed the hand nicely. Barry Rigal led a low spade and Zia put in the nine and won Bramley's queen with the ace. Next he lost a club finesse to the queen and back came the ♦9, 0 or 2 higher. Zia won the first diamond with the ace and knocked out the ♣A. When Bramley continued with the ♦8 Zia ducked that, and Bramley tried cashing the ♦K. When the queen fell Zia claimed his game.

Have a safe trip home

Bad Times All Round

by Sam Leckie

I must admit that after three sessions of the pairs the situation of my pick (Zia-Robson) was looking quite desperate. They were in 38th spot. Before the start of the fourth session I arranged a team meeting to discuss the matter.

Firstly, I told them that whilst they had been "enjoying" themselves I had played my first ever two sessions of Texas Hold 'em in the casino and if a results list had been posted there my position would be far worse than theirs is. This seemed to cheer up both of them.

Andy then explained that they had atrocious luck. I quickly told him "Get with it, Andy. Luck is old hat. It's now Bad Beats."

I continued, "On one hand I held QQQJJ and was crushed by AAA1010. Now that's what you call a Bad Beat."

"So what," said Zia. Andy then scribbled down this hand and said loudly, "What would you call this?"

Bd: 27	♠ Q743	
Dlr: South	♥ J104	
Vul: None	♦ K107	
	♣ 1083	
♠ A10		♠ K5
♥ A9632		♥ KQ8
♦ 982		♦ AQJ3
♣ 762		♣ AQ94
	♠ J9862	
	♥ 75	
	♦ 654	
	♣ KJ5	

The opponents bid as follows:

West	East
	2NT
3♦	4♥
4♠	4NT
5♥	6♥

"All it needs," he continued, "is a three-two trump break with a three-three diamond break and the king inside."

"Pretty unlucky," I replied meekly.

It seemed that both were turning all their anger on me. This reminded me of a story that happened many years ago when a young friend of mine played with three brothers in a team game. All good players three were very volatile. As a gesture they made my friend captain. After eight boards they were 8 IMPs up and my friend said to them "Well done, lads. A good start." Another eight boards and a further 12 IMPs gained. "We've got them where we want them" he told them. In the third set they lost 24 IMPs and my friend was about to speak when the three of them shouted in unison "Shut up!"

As my boys were leaving I said "You two are in a better position than me because I don't think my money will last another two sessions. And then finally, almost as an afterthought, I asked them, "Do either of you know Mr. Zimmermann's room number? S'il vous plait."

"Why, did he buy us?" asked Andy.

"No, it's not that. I just thought he might be good for a loan."