



World Bridge Productions

Presents the

Cavendish^{wbp}

Invitational

Bulletin Number 2

Thursday, May 11, 2000

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Contributing Editor: Barry Rigal

Johnson Leads Hamman by 13 VP's in Cavendish Teams

After six matches the team captained by Perry Johnson (Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco) holds a modest 13-VP lead (with 136 VP's) over the top-auctioned Bob Hamman squad (Zia Mahmood, Gabriel Chagas, Geir Helgemo), who ended yesterday's play with 123 VP's. In third place with 121 VP's is the team sponsored by npc Malcolm Brachman (Michael Seamon, Mike passell, Eddie Wold, Paul Soloway). Today's final three matches will decide the winner of the Dreyfus Cup, the trophy symbolic of victory in the Cavendish Teams. With three matches left to play, only a handful of teams have a realistic chance to catch the leaders for the \$92K-plus first prize. The rosters and auction prices of all the teams can be found on p. 2, while a complete rundown of the match-six standings and cash awards are on p. 3.



"The idea, David, is for the bids to *increase*."



Top price getters (l to r): Gabriel Chagas, Geir Helgemo, Zia Mahmood and "The Boss"

Special Notice: World Bridge Productions Pairs Pre-Auction

In order to generate interest and facilitate the live WBP Pairs auction, to be held on Saturday morning, May 13, provisions have been made to accept bids prior to the start of the live auction. Here's how it will work:

Arrayed around the Registration Desk (on the second floor of the Country Club, near the playing area) will be preliminary owners' cards for all expected participants. (Not all of these pairs may attend, but the vast majority is expected.) If you wish to bid on a pair you may do so by entering the amount of your bid on the pair's card

and signing your name opposite the bid amount (minimum bid = \$1000). These bids will be considered binding, just as if they been made in the live auction. If your bid is not topped in either the pre or live auctions you will become the owner of the pair and have all of the attendant rights and responsibilities. Remember, each pair must buy back 10% of their purchase price and may buy back up to 40% of themselves if they are so inclined.

Please confirm your bids with the appropriate parties at

Conditions of Contest

In general, it is our intent to allow methods with which other contestants are expected to be familiar. It is also our intent to allow reasonable artificiality in auctions where the bidding side has guaranteed sufficient (high-card) values to invite game. If you have any questions about your own or your opponents' methods, the person to see is Barry Rigal.

Schedule

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Thursday, May 11th	12:00 PM	3 rd (final) Session, Teams	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	6:30 PM	Cocktail Party	Veranda above Hotel Casino
	7:45 PM	Auction, Cavendish Pairs	Veranda above Hotel Casino
Friday, May 12th	12:00 PM	1 st Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	7:30 PM	2 nd Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
Saturday, May 13th	11:00 AM	WBP Brunch (all invited)	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 nd floor
	11:30 AM	WBP Auction	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 nd floor
	12:30 PM	3 rd Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	12:30 PM	1 st Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
	TBA	4 th Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	TBA	2 nd Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
Sunday, May 14th	12:00 PM	5 th Session, Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 3 & 4
	12:00 PM	3 rd Session, WBP Pairs	Country Club, Ballrooms 1 & 2
	5:30 PM	Awards Ceremony and Closing Cocktail Party	Country Club, Fairway Rooms, 2 nd floor

Cavendish Teams Rosters and Auction Results

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

Team#	Team Members	Auction Price
1	Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Gabriel Chagas, Geir Helgemo	\$30,000
2	Malcolm Brachman (npc), Michael Seamon, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Paul Soloway	28,000
3	Perry Johnson, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco	28,000
4	Robert Levin, Steve Weinstein, David Berkowitz, Larry Cohen	26,000
5	Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Dano DeFalco, Guido Ferraro	24,000
6	Kit Woolsey, Fred Stewart, Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson	17,000
7	Henry Mansell, Sam Lev, Piotr Gawrys, Jacek Pszczola	16,000
8	Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen, Michel Abecassis, Jean-Christophe Quantin	15,000
9	Rose Johnson-Meltzer, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Peter Weichsel, Alan Sontag	14,000
10	Seymon Deutsch, Fred Hamilton, Billy Eisenberg, Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Bobby Wolff	12,000
11	Ron Smith, Mark Lair, Richard Finberg, Billy Cohen, Ralph Cohen	11,000
12	Jim Krekorian, Richie Schwartz, Drew Casen, Robert Blanchard	11,000
13	Sidney Lazard, Bart Bramley, Russ Ekeblad, Sheila Ekeblad, John Sutherlin	10,000
14	Lou Ann O'Rourke, Billy Miller, Curtis Cheek, Roger Bates, Kyle Larsen	10,000
15	Rita Shugart, Andy Robson, Peter Fredin, Magnus Lindkvist	10,000
16	Mike Whitman, Grant Baze, George Steiner, Gaylor Kasle, Fred Gitelman	8,000
17	Mike Moss, Bjorn Fallenius, Simon De Wijs, Ricco Van Prooijen	7,000
18	Dan Morse, Barry Schaffer, Colby Vernay, Adam Wildavsky	6,000
19	Gerhard Schiesser, Andrzej Knap, Richie Reisig, Benito Garozzo	5,000
20	Mike Albert, Marc Jacobus, Jimmy Rosenbloom, Roy Welland, Brian Glubok, Bill Pollack	5,000
21	Verone Lungu, Pinhas Romik, Michael Elinescu, Sorin Pleacof, Emil Dojaru	5,000
22	Lionel Wright, Charles Wigoder, Michael Cornell, Michael Courtney	5,000
23	Harry Tudor, Gary Cohler, Daniel Rotman, Barbara Wallace	5,000
24	Manuel Capucho, Maria João Lara, Maurice Friedman, Armand Barfus	4,000

Total Auction: \$312,000

Cavendish Teams: Standings After 6 Matches

(Team Rosters on p. 2)

Team #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total	Rank	
1		25				27						30							23*					18	123	2	
2	5			16							18		29					28		25						121	3
3				26*							22						30		28				30			136	1
4		14	34*		30			14															26			118	4
5				0		10	26						8	5						28						77	17
6	3				20					16				0										25	4	68	19/20
7					4			38*					20		20								27			109	6
8				16				22*								2	24				23					87	13/14
9										7			2					10		8	13		22			62	21
10						14			23			0	15		11		9									72	18
11		12	8								29		29		24				8							110	5
12	0									30	1		9		22						30					92	12
13		1			22				28	15		21		0												87	13/14
14					25	30	10				1		30						5							101	8/9
15										19		8				23	21	19				9				99	10
16							10	28			6				6						30	6				86	15/16
17			0					6		21					9				32*							68	19/20
18		2							20					25	11		28*									86	15/16
19	37*		2								22										24				13	98	11
20		5			2			7	22										6		5					47	23/24
21									17			0				0					25		7	10		59	22
22				4											21	24						23			33*	105	7
23			0			5	3		8												20				11	47	23/24
24	12					26														17			27*	19		101	8/9

*VP's = total for two matches

Cavendish Teams Prize Awards



	Auction	Players
1 st	\$92,664	\$16,830
2 nd	\$61,776	\$11,220
3 rd	\$44,928	\$8,160
4 th	\$33,696	\$6,120
5 th	\$28,080	\$5,100
6 th	\$19,656	\$3,570



Entrants for the Cavendish Pairs

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

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

Entrants for the WBP Pairs

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

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

The Cavendish Teams: Day One

Match 1:

In the top clash on VuGraph, Team Hamman took on Team Brachman. The match saw only two significant swings, both going to Hamman.

Bd: 2	♠ KQ		
Dlr: East	♥ 1085		
Vul: N/S	♦ A82		
	♣ KQ1092		
♠ J10753		♠ 842	
♥ A943		♥ KQ762	
♦ 4		♦ Q1076	
♣ AJ6		♣ 3	
	♠ A96		
	♥ J		
	♦ KJ953		
	♣ 8754		
West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

At the first table Geir took an excellent view to remove 3NT to 5♣—his spade length suggested that 5♣ would play well while hearts might be a danger suit in 3NT. Chagas won the spade lead and ducked a heart. He won the spade return, ruffed a heart, played a club to the king, ruffed his last heart, then led dummy's last club and claimed. In the other room Wold-Soloway did not judge as well as Chagas-Helgemo. Their auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Wold</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Wold neither overcalled 2♣ over Hamman's third-seat 1♠ opening nor did he balance when 2♠ came back around to him. When 2♠ made two (+110 for E/W) Hamman picked up 12 imps.

Elsewhere, N/S got more bidding to contend with. Michael Cornell opened 2♥ as East, raised to 4♥ of course by Lionel Wright and passed out. On a diamond lead to the ace North shifted to a top club to the ace. Cornell led the ♠J from dummy which was covered by the queen as he followed low. Now South produced a less-than-optimal defense by overtaking with the ace to play a club through dummy's jack-six. Declarer ruffed, drew two rounds of trump, then passed the ♠8 to score up +420, which went

nicely with the +600 recorded by Wigoder-Courtney who were in in 5♣ N/S at the other table.

Andy Robson found himself in an insalubrious spot here after the auction:

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Robson</i>	—	<i>Shugart</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Dbl	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

He was lucky enough to avoid the heart lead. On the spade lead he won the king and led a low heart from hand toward dummy's stiff jack. East won the queen and rather naively returned a spade. Robson won and tried the ♣Q, which lost to the ace, and a third spade cleared the suit. Now Robson cashed the ♦AK in the hopes that the queen would fall. When West discarded he guessed to finesse in clubs to score nine tricks.

Bd: 3	♠ AQ10		
Dlr: South	♥ K976		
Vul: E/W	♦ J42		
	♣ J76		
♠ J85		♠ K97632	
♥ Q43		♥ A85	
♦ 10		♦ K3	
♣ K98542		♣ Q10	
	♠ 4		
	♥ J102		
	♦ AQ98765		
	♣ A3		

The room managed to reach 3NT on the N/S cards. On a spade lead declarer could win in hand and finesse in diamonds, then finesse in hearts for +490. However, when Gabriel Chagas was declarer the overtricks took on a special significance. This had been the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Passell</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dbl(support)
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl(!)	Rdbl
All Pass			

Seamon's attempt to scare his opponents out of 3NT might have worked against a less-determined South, but Helgemo was more than happy to up the stakes. On a spade lead Chagas won the jack with the queen and took

the diamond finesse, then settled for one overtrick by cashing out. Still, that was worth 11 imps and contributed to the 25-5 VP win for the Hamman team.

It is always irritating to discover that your best plays have simply served to limit your losses on a deal. Consider this hand in the match between (Perry) Johnson and Levin.

Bd: 8	♠ 9542		
Dlr: West	♥ Q85		
Vul: None	♦ QJ		
	♣ Q432		
♠ KQJ107		♠ 86	
♥ 10972		♥ 43	
♦ 84		♦ A10932	
♣ J5		♣ AK107	
	♠ A3		
	♥ AKJ6		
	♦ K765		
	♣ 986		

Jeff Meckstroth opened the West hand with 2♠, which was passed around to Levin who tried 2NT—an interesting choice. Everyone passed, and Meckstroth led the ♠K. Levin knew Jeff's style well enough to duck this, and Jeff now did very well to find the ♣J shift to set the hand.

A nice result, but Levin had already done well for his side, in a sense. The point was emphasized at the other table where Larry Cohen opened 2♠ as well with the West cards. This went around to Geoff Hampson, who reopened with a double. Eric Greco bid 2NT, Lebensohl, en route to 3♣ and David Berkowitz decided he had enough to double. He led a spade and Greco won to lead a diamond to the queen. Berkowitz won the ace and returned a spade, letting Cohen play a top spade to allow Berkowitz to pitch a heart. When Greco tried to cash a few hearts Berkowitz ruffed in and led a second diamond. Now, although declarer can escape for 300 if he reads the position carefully, he actually went three down; 10 imps to Levin.

Match 2:

Bd: 16	♠ J1097		
Dlr: West	♥ J2		
Vul: E/W	♦ Q1074		
	♣ K42		
♠ 62		♠ KQ3	
♥ Q9876		♥ A105	
♦ J85		♦ K632	
♣ J83		♣ Q95	
	♠ A854		
	♥ K43		
	♦ A9		
	♣ A1076		

Seymon Deutsch is used to seeing Bobby Wolff extract a quart out of a pint pot—which perhaps explains why Wolff needs to perform the odd miracle from time to time.

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Wolff received a club lead to the six and eight which he won in hand to advance the ♠J, covered all around. Now a spade back to the ten and king allowed the defense to exit with a third spade. Declarer played a club to the ten and jack and West returned a heart to the ten and king. Now Wolff cashed the ♣AK and the fourth club as both defenders pitched diamonds, then came to hand with the third spade. On the last spade East reduced to ♥Ax and ♦Kx and West was squeezed. If he came down to two hearts and two diamonds Wolff would exit with a heart and collect two diamonds in the end. So West bared his ♦J and Wolff led the ♦Q out of his hand to pin the jack and collect his two diamond tricks to make his contract. At the other table 2♠ collected +140, so this represented a gain of 7 imps rather than a loss of 5 imps.

Match 3:

Bd: 21	♠ ---		
Dlr: North	♥ 9432		
Vul: N/S	♦ A8532		
	♣ KQ92		
♠ J105		♠ 62	
♥ AK1076		♥ QJ85	
♦ K106		♦ QJ974	
♣ J4		♣ 85	
	♠ AKQ98743		
	♥ ---		
	♦ ---		
	♣ A10763		

Freak deals normally produce a story or two. Here the field did not distinguish itself, a few pairs even languishing in game with the N/S cards. (If the promised payoff fail to materialize, we might even tell you who in a future issue.) Kudos instead to the pairs who recorded the Grand Slam. Whitman-Baze bid: 2♣-2♦; 2♠-3♦; 4♣-6♣; 7♣. Whitman was confident he would buy at least four good clubs for Baze's jump to slam.

Some others had the space to find out. Pollack-Glubok bid: 1♠-1NT; 3♣-5♣ (good trumps); 5NT-7♣. Smith-Lav bid: 2♣-2♦; 2♠-2NT (values); 3♣-4♣; 5NT-7♣; (P)-P-(7♥)-Dbl; 7♠. Also reaching the top spot were Chemla-Levy. After 2♣-(2♥)-P-(4♥); P-4NT; 6♠ Alain Levy boldly raised to 7♠ figuring that his partner had to have solid spades

and extras, since he would have bid 4♠ earlier (or just bid 5♠) with less.

Bd: 22	♠ ---	
Dlr: East	♥ AKQJ10975	
Vul: E/W	♦ J4	
	♣ K75	
♠ A108		♠ K97543
♥ 84		♥ 2
♦ KQ109753		♦ A62
♣ 9		♣ 862
	♠ QJ62	
	♥ 63	
	♦ 8	
	♣ AQJ1043	

Just what the N/S pairs wanted to see after the wildness of the previous deal! Gawrys opened the South hand 2♣, but the opponents put up quite an effort thereafter to block N/S's constructive bidding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Rotman</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣
3♦	3♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Gawrys got the message about facing a hand that simply needed a diamond control. 6♣ was not as good as 6♥ but both played for twelve tricks. If West had raised to 4♠ Pszczola would have had an even more awkward call, of course. Billy Pollack was faced as North with the auction: (2♠)-3♣-(4♠)-?. He tried 6♥ and the ♦A lead scared him—until dummy appeared with the key diamond singleton.



"We, are, fa-mi-lee..."

Match 4:

Berkowitz-Cohen took on Wright-Cornell and the early exchanges (the table began play with Board 6) appeared even. Wright's best chance for a swing came on Board 7:

Bd: 7	♠ 9		
Dlr: South	♥ 9543		
Vul: Both	♦ KQ2		
	♣ K10932		
♠ 5			♠ QJ108763
♥ AJ10762			♥ Q8
♦ 1074			♦ 963
♣ AJ6			♣ 8
	♠ AK42		
	♥ K		
	♦ AJ85		
	♣ Q754		
West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Wright</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	2♦	2♠	2NT (!)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Cohen found the unfortunate lead of the ♥10, blocking the suit. Wright won and made the mistake of leading the ♣4 to the king and now had to go down. The winning play is to lead the ♣Q from hand at trick two. Cohen would have been able to win this but the defense would never be able to unscramble their tricks and declarer could finesse in clubs for his contract in safety.

Miller-Cheek also reached 3NT against Boyd-Robinson, and they got doubled for their prize. Robinson also led that unfortunate ♥10. Cheek took the king, cashed four diamonds to pitch a club from dummy and led the ♣Q. Robinson won and cashed the ♥A to learn the bad news, then exited with a spade. Cheek cashed the ♠AK to get a complete count on the hand, then finessed in clubs for ten tricks and +950.

When Board 2 came around it landed a heavy blow in favor of the Americans.

Bd: 2	♠ 4		
Dlr: East	♥ 92		
Vul: N/S	♦ J1086		
	♣ AKQ542		
♠ AQ3			♠ KJ1092
♥ Q104			♥ J7653
♦ K2			♦ A5
♣ 109876			♣ J
	♠ 8765		
	♥ AK8		
	♦ Q9743		
	♣ 3		

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Cornell	Berkowitz	Wright
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT(semi)	2♣	2♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	DbI
All Pass			

Wright could (and perhaps should) have set the game on a top heart lead, but when he began with his singleton club Cornell could hardly do anything else but win and return a low club. Berkowitz ruffed high, drew one trump, then led a heart up and collected a comfortable +590.

At the other table a weak-notrump auction after East had passed led to a 4♥ contract, beaten on a spade ruff for 12 imps to Levin.

The next deal saw Berkowitz-Cohen conduct an elegant if convoluted auction to the best spot:

Bd: 3	♠ 98		
Dlr: South	♥ J1064		
Vul: E/W	♦ Q10753		
	♣ 65		
♠ AJ542		♠ K6	
♥ A8		♥ KQ753	
♦ A98		♦ 6	
♣ A107		♣ QJ832	
	♠ Q1073		
	♥ 92		
	♦ KJ42		
	♣ K94		
West	North	East	South
Cohen	Cornell	Berkowitz	Wright
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ (17+)	Pass	1♥ (GF)	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦ (cue)	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

On a diamond lead Cohen had a choice of a multitude of lines but elected to win in hand and lead a club to the jack and king. He won the trump return and ruffed out the hearts, then could cross to the table to draw the last trump for +920.

At the other table Wigoder-Courtney also reached slam—but they found a less comfortable route (after 1♠-2♥; 3♣ Courtney had to be restrained from bidding the Grand Slam).

Match 5:

When your opponents step out of line with a preempt, you have to know how to teach them a sharp lesson. Ralph Cohen tried to exert maximum pressure here, but Meckwell aren't used to giving in easily.

Bd: 17	♠ KJ987		
Dlr: North	♥ 7643		
Vul: None	♦ 1043		
	♣ 2		
♠ AQ53		♠ 642	
♥ QJ85		♥ A9	
♦ AK5		♦ 9762	
♣ 97		♣ KQ83	
	♠ 10		
	♥ K102		
	♦ QJ8		
	♣ AJ10654		
West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	B. Cohen	Rodwell	R. Cohen
—	Pass	Pass	3♣
DbI	All Pass		

On a top diamond lead (under which Ralph unblocked the jack) Jeff won and continued with two more diamonds to kill the entry to dummy. Ralph led a club to the jack and then a spade up. Meckstroth took his ace and shifted to a low heart. Rodwell won and continued the suit and two more rounds of hearts left declarer with two more trumps to lose for -500.

At the other table Ron Smith did excellently to minimize the damage. Playing 3NT he received a heart lead to the king and the ♠10 shift. He knew enough from the auction to fly with the ♠A and lead a club to the king and ace. When Greco returned a heart declarer won the ace and cashed the ♦AK, then two rounds of hearts, and exited with a diamond. This was the ending:

	♠ KJ98		
	♥ ---		
	♦ ---		
	♣ ---		
♠ Q53		♠ ---	
♥ ---		♥ ---	
♦ ---		♦ 9	
♣ 9		♣ Q83	
	♠ ---		
	♥ ---		
	♦ ---		
	♣ J1065		

Whether North or South was on lead with the third

diamond, they were endplayed to concede three out of the last four tricks. (It hardly spoils the story to note that had North returned a club after winning the ace the endplay would not work.)

But that was not the worst thing to happen to N/S here. Guido Ferraro opened the South hand a descriptive 1♦ (he was playing a strong club with an artificial 2♣). When Kyle Larsen doubled, Dano DeFalco bid 1♠. Roger Bates tried 2♣ (stealing his opponents' suit) and Ferraro passed, but DeFalco reopened with 2♦. Bates doubled and everyone passed. The ♣9 was led to the queen and ace. Ferraro led

his spade but Larsen rose with his ace and cashed three diamonds, Ferraro unblocking twice and winning the third round with dummy's ten. Now he played the ♠K and ♠J, won by Larsen. He exited with a heart to Bates' ace and the ♥9 back went to the king. Declarer's best play is now to lead the ♣J (which Bates would have to duck to collect +500) but Ferraro played a third heart, letting Larsen cash two hearts for Bates to pitch his club losers. That meant a cool +800 for the O'Rourke team.

We'll pick up with Match 6 tomorrow.

A Three-Time Loser

by Sam Leckie

This is the third consecutive year I have attended the Cavendish in Las Vegas as a spectator, and as Scotland is a long way off I am being asked by many back home what is the attraction. Well, besides Las Vegas itself the tournament has many magical qualities. The fact that many of the leading players from all over the world attend, play for vast sums of money without a hint of unethical conduct is quite remarkable. Viewing is ideal—to watch any pair of your choosing for a two-board match and then immediately be able to compare their results with all the others is marvelous. Then there's the fun of the auction (not to mention the free nosh).

The first time I came I was told by many not to miss the auction; I was not staying at the Mirage so a couple of hours before it began I went back to my hotel to prepare. What should I wear? It was probably going to be formal so I dressed in shirt and tie and anyway, I didn't want to be too conspicuous. A couple of glasses of wine and a short nap seemed a good idea as I expected a late night. When I awoke it was 10 o'clock and the auction was at eight!

The next day I had to answer the question "What happened to you?" from my fellow Scottish friends. As tickets for Danny Ganz were almost impossible to be had I replied, "Would you miss Danny Ganz?" That seemed to shut them up!

As a matter of fact I've never managed to see him, so this year now that he has moved to the Mirage I felt that tickets might be more readily available. On Monday as soon as I arrived I headed straight to the booking office at the Mirage and was told, "He's not performing this week."

Now who told him I was coming?!



The long and the short of it?



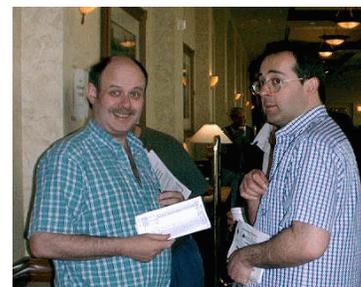
"I feel like people eavesdrop on all of my conversations."



"Outbid again! Darn, I really hate it when that happens."



"Why does your list have more teams on it than mine?"



"Hello, we must be going..."