World Bridge Productions



Invitational

Bulletin Number 2 Thursday, May 11, 2006 Editor: Rich Colker

Schwartz Leads John Roberts Teams

At the end of Day One, the team captained by Richie Schwartz (Chris Willenken, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian, Tarek Sadek, Waleed El Ahmady) had 128 VPs, just 4 VPs ahead of the second-place Wafik Abdou squad (Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha). In third place, with 111 VP, is Roy Welland's team (Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein). The complete standings and match-by-match results are on p 3. The final three matches will be played today beginning at noon in Estancia DEFG.

Opening Brunch Buffet Alfresco

This year's opening brunch buffet was exceptional—which is really saying something. Not only was the food wonderful, the outdoor setting was nothing short of spectacular. Here are some views of the festivities. (There's more on page 9.)





Don't forget to dress up and show up tonight for the lavish and exquisite Cavendish Pairs cocktail party and auction, beginning at 6:15 in the Grand Ballroom 3/4.

ALERT! - ALERT! - ALERT!

Starting time on Friday will be 10:30 am. The between-session break will be slightly more than one hour. The evening session will end by 8:45 pm.

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 | | | |
| 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 | 10:30 PM | 1 st Session, Pairs | Estancia DEFG | | | |
| | TBA | 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, Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha
- 8 Gaylor Kasle, Grant Baze, David Berkowitz, Sam Lev, Billy Pollack, Jacek Pszczola
- 9 Zoltan Nagy, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Bob Richman
- 10 Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein
- 11 **Bob Blanchard**, Gary Cohler, Jeff Meckstroth, Howard Weinstein
- 12 Lew Stansby, Boye Brogeland, Ishmael DelMonte, Vincent Demuy, JoAnna Stansby, Gavin Wolpert
- 13 Sheila Ekeblad, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Bob Hamman, Michael Seamon
- 14 Michael Cornell, Chris Compton, Mike Passell, Michael Rosenberg

John Roberts Teams: VP Standings After Day 1 (6 Matches)

(Team Rosters on p. 2)

| Team # | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Total | Rank |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|------|
| 1 | | | 7 | 12 | 2 | | | | 30 | | | 23 | 5 | | 79 | |
| 2 | | | | | 5 | | 3 | | | 10 | | 18 | 25 | 30 | 91 | |
| 3 | 23 | | | 19 | 22 | | | 5 | | | | | 18 | 23 | 110 | |
| 4 | 18 | | 11 | | | | 8 | | | | 21 | 22 | | 7 | 87 | |
| 5 | 28 | 25 | 8 | | | | 19 | 27 | | 21 | | | | | 128 | 1 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 10 | 11 | 3 | | 23 | 8 | 0 | | 55 | |
| 7 | | 27 | | 22 | 11 | 20 | | | | 15 | | 29 | | | 124 | 2 |
| 8 | | | 25 | | 3 | 19 | | | 3 | | 15 | | | 5 | 70 | |
| 9 | 0 | | | | | 27 | | 27 | | 0 | 9 | 6 | | | 69 | |
| 10 | | 20 | | | 9 | | 15 | | 30 | | | | 19 | 18 | 111 | 3 |
| 11 | | | | 9 | | 7 | | 15 | 21 | | | 21 | | 0 | 73 | |
| 12 | 7 | 12 | | | | 22 | 1 | | 24 | | 9 | | | | 75 | |
| 13 | 25 | 5 | 12 | 8 | | 30 | | | | 11 | | | | | 91 | |
| 14 | | 0 | 7 | 23 | | | | 25 | | 12 | 30 | | | | 97 | |

John Roberts Teams Prize Awards



| Place | Players |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 st | \$50,000 |
| 2 nd | \$32,500 |
| 3 rd | \$22,000 |
| Best 3rd Session (not in top 3) | \$7,500 |



Gamblers Non-Anonymous

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

Great Bid/Play!

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

Entrants for the WBP Pairs 2006

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

Pair #

| Ра | <u> </u> | Pai | <u>r #</u> |
|----|--|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 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 #

| Pai | r# | Pai | r# |
|-----|--|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 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 Multon – 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 | | 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 | |
| 18 | Christal Henner-Welland – Michael Kamil | 43 | Mathias Bruun – Peter Fredin |
| 19 | Amos Kaminski – Shaya Levit | | 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 Winkler | 48 | Guido Ferraro – Augustin Medala |
| 24 | In the second sec | 49 | Alain Levy – Herve Mouiel |
| 25 | Zoltan Nagy – Bob Richman | 50 | Antonio Sementa – Alfredo Versace |
| | | | |

Jim Robison, a frequent participant in Cavendish events, died here in his hometown of Las Vegas, NV, on March 27, 2006, of complications from a stroke he suffered last fall. Jim was 63. A professional bridge and poker player, Jim's bridge titles included the 2004 World Senior Cup (in Istanbul), the 1979 and 1990 North American Swiss Teams, the 1984 Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, the 1985 Open Pairs and the 1998 NABC+ IMP Pairs. Jim also had five second-place finishes in North American events, including the 2005 Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. His masterpoint total of 17,218 placed him

78th on the ACBL all-time masterpoint list.

In the obituary published in the ACBL Bulletin Jim's long-time friend Allan Falk was quoted as saying, "Most people know Jim was a first rate cash game and video poker player and an extraordinarily talented bridge player. Fewer are aware that Jim was once on the verge of becoming a professional golfer, after a collegiate career as a leading member of the then-dominant Ohio State University team that included Jack Nicklaus.



Jim Robison (1942-2006)

"Once you got to know Jim, which not infrequently required a certain level of pachydermatousness, he was amusing, witty, intelligent, charming, a brilliant raconteur, a boon companion, a ferociously competitive partner, and yet he could be vexing, annoying (most often by turning out to be entirely correct about some contrary position) and amusingly insulting. But, achieving what the title character in the classic gangster film 'Little Caesar' never could, Jim could dish it out and take it as well, always with a laugh, whether on himself or someone else. Mike Passell once remarked that if Jim could

only learn to bid, he'd easily be the best bridge player in the world, which is a scary thought in a lot of ways.

"Known among his friends as 'Robo' or 'The Robinator,' Jim was fun to be around, at or away from the table, and he had a remarkable talent for bringing out the best in people—usually because they were working extra hard to prove him wrong about something! He will be sorely missed as a player, a friend, and a presence."

Robison is survived by his wife, Carol Pincus, also a worldclass player with multiple NABC titles.

The End of an Era

by Sam Leckie

The passing of my dear friend Albert Benjamin (96) earlier this year was a great loss to the bridge community in Scotland. Albert was best known around the world for his convention "Benjamin Two's." He was a Scottish international player and captain, teacher, columnist, and bridge club owner at various times in his life, and was also Scotland's first bridge professional. He always encouraged and helped young players. Ask our two famous exports Michael Rosenberg and Barnet Shenkin and they will confirm that his advice helped them in their early days.

A memorial lunch was held recently in Glasgow and was fully sold out, with over two hundred people attending, many officials traveling from England, Wales, and Ireland to pay their respects. A fitting tribute to a great man.

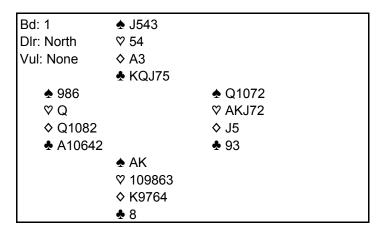
Albert was also an excellent raconteur with a great sense of humor. He seemed to prefer telling stories about his spectacular failures than about his great dummy play or defense. Here is one of his favorites.

In a team-of-four match playing with his regular partner, they could not beat a small slam doubled holding KQJ98 of trumps! After a strange bidding sequence the opponents reached 6♥ and Albert, holding an ace and the QJ8 of trumps, doubled. He led his ace which was ruffed by declarer in hand and a low trump was played up to dummy's A104. Now afraid of the overtrick Albert put up his jack. Declarer won, came back to his hand, and led a second trump up to dummy's 104. Albert had seen it all before, and put up his queen which of course was overtaken perforce by his partner's king. After the smoke had cleared Albert said to his partner, "Well, at least my double was right."

The John Roberts Teams: Session One

Match One:

Match one features Roy Welland-Bjorn Fallenius versus Aussies Zolton Nagy-Bob Richman. The fireworks began immediately.



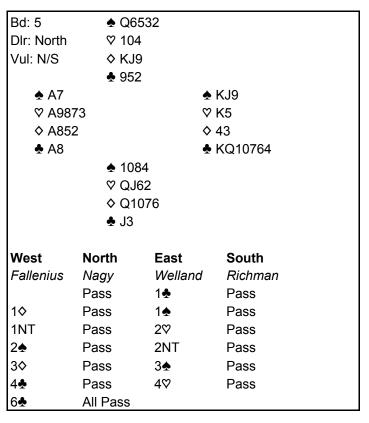
North, Zolton Nagy, declared 2♣ doubled and scrambled home with eight tricks; +180. But on the very next board N/S returned the favor.

| Bd: 2 | ♠ Q4 | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dlr: East | ♥ A4 | |
| Vul: N/S | ♦ A94 | |
| | ♣ AQ9854 | |
| ◆ J1093 | | ◆ K76 |
| ♡ 10986 | | ♥ KQ32 |
| ♦ KQ752 | | ♦ 63 |
| ♣ | | ♣ KJ76 |
| | ♠ A852 | |
| | ♥ J75 | |
| | ♦ J108 | |
| | ♣ 1032 | |

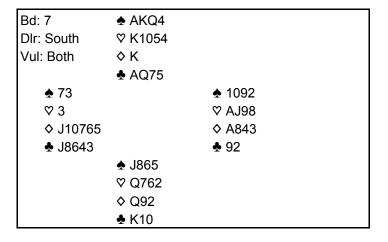
Again N/S played the hand, this time the contract was an ambitious 3NT (doubled of course). This time North only managed seven tricks as E/W scored up +300.

| Bd: 3 | ♠ 6 | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dlr: South | ♥ AK73 | |
| Vul: E/W | ♦ A1062 | |
| | ♣ AQJ4 | |
| ★ 10985 | | ♠ AKQ732 |
| ♡ J62 | | ♥ 54 |
| ♦ Q843 | | ♦ 975 |
| 4 103 | | ♣ 65 |
| | ♦ J4 | |
| | ♥ Q1098 | |
| | ♦ KJ | |
| | ♣ K9872 | |

Richman took the low road in the auction and settled for $4\heartsuit$. Twelve tricks were easy; +480.



1♣ could be as few as two, 1♦ was artificial showing 11+ HCP, and 1♠ showed clubs. Fallenius then embarked on a relay sequence discovering that Welland had 6+ clubs and no side singleton. 3♦ was RKCB for clubs and when Welland showed one key card, the ♣Q, and no ♦K Fallenius settled for the small slam. A diamond lead holds declarer to 12 tricks but on Richman's ♥2 lead Welland used his entries to set up dummy's fifth heart, ruffed his third spade in dummy, and drew trumps while retaining the ♦A as an entry to the good fifth heart; +1390.



Here Nagy-Richman played 3NT from the South side when

Nagy, North, failed to check for a possible four-four majorsuit fit. 3NT finished two down on Fallenius' diamond lead but four of either major is no bargain either: 4♥ has three trumps and the ♦A to lose while 4♠ can be set with two heart ruffs.

| r | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------|---------|--|
| Bd: 8 | ♠ A80 | 643 | | |
| Dlr: West | Δl | | | |
| Vul: None | ♦ AJ | 93 | | |
| | ♣ KJ8 | 8 | | |
| ∳ KQ1 | 0 | ^ | J7 | |
| ♥ AK6 | 5 | ♡ | Q742 | |
| ♦ KQ1 | 052 | ♦ | 86 | |
| ♣ 10 | | * | Q9432 | |
| | ♦ 952 | 2 | | |
| | ♥ 109 | | | |
| | ♦ 74 | | | |
| | ♣ A70 | 65 | | |
| | 2 /(() | 00 | | |
| West | North | East | South | |
| Fallenius | Nagy | Welland | Richman | |
| 1\$ | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass | |
| 3♡ | 3♠ | All Pass | | |

With the ♣Q offside 3♠ failed by one trick when 3♥ figured to go down as well. In case the Aussies had any doubts about this not being their day, Board 9 should have settled it.

| Bd: 9 | ♠ Q6 | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Dlr: North | ♥ A10 | 07 | |
| Vul: E/W | ♦ AQ | J76 | |
| | ♣ K83 | 3 | |
| ♠ 1087 | | _ | AJ953 |
| ♥ KJ86 | 32 | \Diamond | 4 |
| ♦ 10 | | ♦ | 5432 |
| ♣ 942 | | . | 765 |
| | ♠ K42 | 2 | |
| | ♡ Q9 | 5 | |
| | ♦ K98 | 3 | |
| | ♣ AQ | J10 | |
| | | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fallenius | Nagy | Welland | Richman |
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | Dbl |
| 2\$ | Pass | 2♡ | Dbl |
| 2♠ | 3♦ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♠ | Pass | 6NT |
| All Pass | | | |

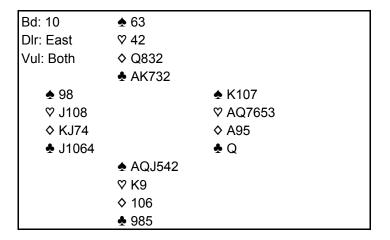
Nagy's 1♣ was strong and Richman's first double showed values. Fallenius described his 2♦ bid as showing either heart length or strength over a natural 1♣ opening but said

it was undiscussed after a strong club. (Welland was clearly on the same wavelength.) Richman's second double was takeout and when Fallenius showed spade support Nagy could not help showing his good diamonds, even though a healthy number was available in 2♠ doubled. Richman had pussyfooted enough and drove to slam after checking on key cards. Although the contract was wrong sided it had play even on Fallenius' lead of a low spade. The legitimate line is to let the lead ride around to the ♠K, run your nine minor-suit winners finishing in hand, and hope East started with the ♥Jx along with the ♠A. If he bares declarer leads his ♥Q pinning the jack while if East bares his ♠A he can be thrown in for an endplay. Alas, nothing was working and 6NT was down one; −50.

The match was a blowout for Welland, who won by a margin of 61 IMPs, 30-0 in VPs.

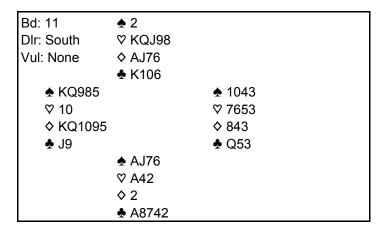
Match Two:

Our second match features Richie Schwartz-Chris Willenken versus Sam Lev-Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola.



Pepsi, East, opened 1% and Willenken, South, jumped to $2\clubsuit$ ending the auction. Lev led the %J, ducked to the king, and Willenken led a club to the ace to take the spade finesse. He played ace and a third spade to Pepsi's king, and eventually scored an overtrick when the defenders pitched poorly in diamonds; +140.

In Zimmerman versus Stansby, Pierre Zimmerman, South, overcalled JoAnna Stansby's 1♥ opening with 2♠, weak, also ending the auction. Lew led the ♥J to JoAnna's ace and at trick 2 she shifted to the ♣Q to dummy's king. Zimmerman erred by leading a spade to the ace and a second spade to JoAnna's king, setting the stage for a nice defense. On the two spades Lew played his trumps up the line to suggest an entry in the lower outside suit, diamonds, so when JoAnna won the ♠K she was able to underlead her ♦A to Lew's king and the ♣J through dummy allowed JoAnna to ruff out the ace. One down, +100.



Schwartz-Willenken bid briskly to 6♥ on the N/S cards after Lev, West, overcalled 1♠ and later doubled Willenken's 4♦ cue-bid. Schwartz captured the ♦Q with the ace and carefully led a club to the ace and a club back toward the king, in case West was ruffing. When both clubs lived he led a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond, and continued to crossruff the pointed suits to score up his slam; +980.

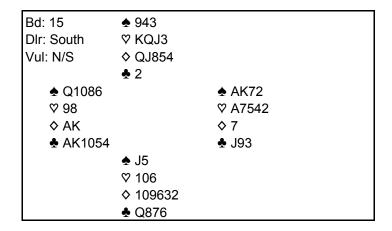
With the club suit behaving even a trump lead cannot beat 6%. Win the trump in hand, play ace and ruff a diamond with the %A, then lead a club to the ten and queen. Now East is helpless. Whatever he returns declarer wins, comes to hand (if necessary) to draw trumps, then runs the clubs taking five trumps in hand, one (or two) diamond ruffs, two pointed-suit aces and four clubs. Nice singleton %10!

Michaels Cornell (North) and Rosenberg (South) also bid to 6♥. Cornell won the spade lead with the ace, played ♣A ♣K, then crossruffed diamonds and spades to score all of his trumps separately and land his slam.

| D.I. 40 | 4.00 | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------|------------|--|
| Bd: 13 | ♠ 83 | | | |
| DIr: North | ♥ K10 | 532 | | |
| Vul: Both | ♦ 983 | | | |
| | ♣ J43 | | | |
| ♠ 76 | | | ♠ AKQJ1042 | |
| ♡ A76 | | | ♥ 98 | |
| ♦ KQ10 | 0 | | ♦ AJ54 | |
| ♣ Q865 | 52 | | ♣ | |
| | ♦ 95 | | | |
| | ♥ QJ4 | | | |
| | ♦ 762 | | | |
| | ♣ AK1 | 097 | | |
| | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | |
| Lev | Schwartz | Pepsi | Willenken | |
| | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | |
| 1NT | Pass | 4♣ | Pass | |
| 4♦ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass | |
| 5♡ | Dbl | 5♠ | All Pass | |

Pepsi's 4♣ self splinter at his second turn may not be the only way to reach the excellent 6♠, but it certainly should have been sufficient. Once West cue-bids a non-◇A (surely he holds the ◇Q as well or at most a doubleton) East only needs to hear about the heart control. When West bids 5♥ East should know slam is on, but just in case North's double cast some doubt in East's mind about the quality of West's heart control, a pass would allow West to confirm holding the ace. So why sign off in 5♠? On the ♥Q lead Pepsi claimed twelve tricks for a disappointing +680.

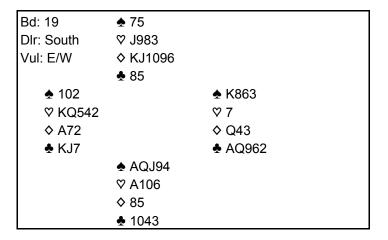
Welland-Fallenius reached 6♠ in an auction that started the same way as the Lev-Pepsi auction but where Welland bid 6♦ (as an offer to play) over Fallenius' 5♥ bid. (Also, there was no double of 5♥.) There was nothing to the play after the ♣A lead.



After Lev's slightly off-shape 1NT Pepsi bid Stayman, then showed an undisclosed singleton by bidding 3♥ over Lev's 2♠ response. After several cue-bids E/W reached the good 6♠, but that was only half the battle: Lev had to make it. He won the ♥K opening lead with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds, and cashed the clubs from the top hoping to drop the queen. When that failed he conceded one down; –50. Oh well, good bidding is its own reward. Schwartz won the match by a 24-IMP margin, 27-3 in VPs.

Match Three:

The final match of the afternoon features Herve Mouiel-Alain Levy versus Ron Smith-Billy Cohen.



Levy, South, opened 1♠ and passed Mouiel's non-forcing 1NT around to Smith, who balanced with 2♥, ending the auction. Mouiel led a spade to Levy's jack, won the diamond return with the king when Smith ducked, and led a second spade to Levy's queen. Levy got out with a second diamond which rode around to the queen and Smith led dummy's lone trump to the king. When he led the ♥2 from hand Levy won the ten and played the ♠A. Smith ruffed high with the queen and led a third round of trumps but the defense scored three trumps, two spades and a diamond for one down; −100.

With 24 HCP between East and West it seems a shame to go down in a partscore when one might just as well go down in a game. Such is the constant philosophy of Waleed El Ahmady and Tarek Sadek, who walked like the Egyptians they are and bid the E/W cards to 3NT (after South, Steve Weinstein, opened 1♠ and North, Bobby Levin, showed long diamonds). El Ahmady received the favorable opening lead of the \$8 (a spade honor beats 3NT outright) and avoided the trap of ducking it around to his queen and allowing Levin a chance to find the killing spade shift. He rose with the ♦A, led a club to the ace, then a heart to the gueen. Next he cashed the ♣KJ and then led a diamond toward the ♦Qx in his hand. Levin could win the $\Diamond K$ but with the defense's lines of communication severed he eventually had to come to either a second heart or the &K to go with his five clubs, two diamonds, and one heart. Nice +600.

Bd: 21 **★** K53 DIr: North ♥ AQ643 Vul: N/S ♦ 086 **♣** AK **♠** Q ♠ 108764 ♥ K8 ♥ J2 ♦ K3 ♦ J95 ♣ J10976532 ♣ Q84 ♠ AJ92 ♥ 10975 ♦ A10742

Levy splintered with 4♣ in response to Mouiel's 1♥ opening,

and Smith couldn't resist trying 5♣ with his eight clubs and precariously placed ♥K. While the vulnerability is certainly right for a save, everything else about West's hand screams that discretion may well be the better part of valor. Mouiel, recognizing (perhaps not totally) the club wastage in his hand, doubled 5♣ and when the smoke cleared the defense had taken two clubs, a diamond, a spade, and two hearts for +800. It is not clear that N/S would have reached 6♥ (which makes only because of favorable positions in all three side suits), but 800 versus 680 is not a result we like to explain to our teammates.

Bd: 25 **♠** A2 DIr: North ♥ 986 Vul: E/W ♦ A764 ♣ J765 **★** KQ98764 **♠** J Δ'n ♥ KQ10543 ♦ 102 ♦ KQ93 AK2 98 **★** 1053 ♥ A72 ♦ J85 ♣ Q1043

Take a look at the West hand and decide what you would do after your partner opened with a weak 2% in second seat at unfavorable vulnerability. Ron Smith bid $2\spadesuit$, forcing, then bid $3\spadesuit$ over Billy Cohen's $3\diamondsuit$ rebid. Cohen couldn't resist raising to game and now it only remained for Smith to make it. Mouiel led the $\clubsuit6$ to the queen and ace and Smith tried the \heartsuit J, Levy winning his ace and shifting back to clubs. Smith won the king, ruffed his third club, and now pitched his two diamonds on the \heartsuit KQ and lost only the \heartsuit A and two trump tricks for +620. It sure is easier to defend when you can see all four hands. The French won the match by 5 IMPs, 19-11 in VPs.

Our coverage of the second and third sessions (Matches 4-9) will appear in tomorrow's Bulletin.





