Chagas and Levit–Porat Head Rankings

Two excellent sets by Gabriel Chagas saw him overtake Piotr Gawrys and open a gap of almost two tops going in the last 24 boards of the Mens. Gawrys and Michel Bessis are tied for second place.

In the Women's event, Ruth Levit—Porat has a lead of just over two tops entering the final session. Sue Picus of the USA lies second, and in third place the name of Veronique Bessis gives rise to the possibility that the Bessis family will collect two medals later today.

Transfers to the Airport on Monday 20 April

Buses will leave the Hotel Campo dell'Oro for the airport at the following times:

08h30

11h45

16h15

Each bus will leave <u>exactly</u> at the scheduled time, so if you are not ready it will leave without you. Please note that flights are likely to be overbooked so it is important that you get to the airport in good time for your flight.

Mens Ranking after 39 Rounds

| I | CHAGAS | BRA 3 | 37.0 | 389.0 | 349.0 | 1075.0 | 57.43 |
|----|------------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 2 | GAWRYS | POL 4 | 0.80 | 307.0 | 320.0 | 1035.0 | 55.29 |
| 2 | BESSIS | FRA 3 | 59.0 | 341.0 | 335.0 | 1035.0 | 55.29 |
| 4 | PERRON | FRA 3 | 05.0 | 363.0 | 359.0 | 1027.0 | 54.86 |
| 5 | WESTRA | NTH 3 | 68.0 | 293.0 | 358.0 | 1019.0 | 54.43 |
| 6 | KOWALSKI | POL 3 | 59.0 | 327.0 | 330.0 | 1016.0 | 54.27 |
| 7 | BOMPIS | FRA 3 | 23.0 | 362.0 | 323.0 | 0.8001 | 53.85 |
| 7 | MARI | FRA 3 | 31.0 | 334.0 | 343.0 | 0.8001 | 53.85 |
| 9 | RICHMAN | AUS 3 | 92.0 | 358.0 | 255.0 | 1005.0 | 53.69 |
| 10 | CRONIER | FRA 3 | 03.0 | 343.0 | 356.0 | 1002.0 | 53.53 |
| П | MARTENS | POL 2 | 74.0 | 390.0 | 334.0 | 998.0 | 53.31 |
| 12 | ROBSON | GBR 3 | 02.0 | 415.0 | 279.0 | 996.0 | 53.21 |
| 13 | CHEMLA | FRA 3 | 14.0 | 300.0 | 369.0 | 983.0 | 52.51 |
| 14 | ALLEGAERT | USA 2 | 88.0 | 326.0 | 368.0 | 982.0 | 52.46 |
| 15 | HELNESS | NOR3 | 48.0 | 331.0 | 301.0 | 980.0 | 52.35 |
| 16 | ABECASSIS | FRA 3 | 16.0 | 343.0 | 311.0 | 970.0 | 51.82 |
| 17 | HACKETT Ja | GBR 3 | 21.0 | 317.0 | 320.0 | 958.0 | 51.18 |
| 18 | HACKETT Ju | GBR 3 | 74.0 | 271.0 | 312.0 | 957.0 | 51.12 |
| 19 | MITTELMAN | CAN2 | 79.0 | 319.0 | 353.0 | 951.0 | 50.80 |
| 20 | WANG | CHN3 | 44.0 | 311.0 | 293.0 | 948.0 | 50.64 |
| 21 | ROUDINESCO | FRA 2 | 71.0 | 371.0 | 304.0 | 946.0 | 50.53 |
| 22 | ZHONG | CHN3 | 07.0 | 295.0 | 337.0 | 939.0 | 50.16 |
| 23 | FREEMAN | USA 3 | 40.0 | 299.0 | 299.0 | 938.0 | 50.11 |
| 23 | DUBOIN | ITA 3 | 0.00 | 289.0 | 349.0 | 938.0 | 50.11 |
| 25 | STOPPA | FRA 2 | 70.0 | 308.0 | 357.0 | 935.0 | 49.95 |
| 25 | LANTARON | SPA 2 | 85.0 | 374.0 | 276.0 | 935.0 | 49.95 |

| 27 | MAHMOOD | PAK 336.0 | 329.0 | 269.0 | 934.0 | 49.89 |
|-----|------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 28 | HELGEMO | NOR264.0 | 354.0 | 315.0 | 933.0 | 49.84 |
| 29 | KARLAFTIS | GRE 301.0 | 310.0 | 320.0 | 931.0 | 49.73 |
| 30 | WOLFF | USA 303.0 | 287.0 | 338.0 | 928.0 | 49.57 |
| 31 | COPE | SAF 301.0 | 306.0 | 319.0 | 926.0 | 49.47 |
| 32 | QUANTIN | FRA 319.0 | 321.0 | 279.0 | 919.0 | 49.09 |
| 33 | SZWARC | FRA 293.0 | 295.0 | 330.0 | 918.0 | 49.04 |
| 34 | MULTON | FRA 324.0 | 334.0 | 258.0 | 916.0 | 48.93 |
| 35 | MOUIEL | FRA 334.0 | 288.0 | 293.0 | 915.0 | 48.88 |
| 36 | LEVY | FRA 301.0 | 300.0 | 306.0 | 907.0 | 48.45 |
| 37 | JOURDAIN | GBR 320.0 | 287.0 | 297.0 | 904.0 | 48.29 |
| 38 | SACUL | IDN 269.0 | 323.0 | 310.0 | 902.0 | 48.18 |
| 39 | MORSE | USA 277.0 | 292.0 | 331.0 | 900.0 | 48.08 |
| 40 | FLODQVIST | SWE 327.0 | 270.0 | 299.0 | 896.0 | 47.86 |
| 41 | KOKISH | CAN 328.0 | 282.0 | 280.0 | 890.0 | 47.54 |
| 42 | DELMOULY | FRA 282.0 | 249.0 | 350.0 | 0.188 | 47.06 |
| 43 | BALDURSSON | ICE 306.0 | 244.0 | 330.0 | 0.088 | 47.01 |
| 44 | FUCIK | AUT 298.0 | 282.0 | 299.0 | 879.0 | 46.96 |
| 45 | KHOLOMEEV | RUS 331.0 | 261.0 | 281.0 | 873.0 | 46.63 |
| 46 | AUKEN | DEN 286.0 | 265.0 | 309.0 | 860.0 | 45.94 |
| 47 | SHARIF | EGY 278.0 | 290.0 | 281.0 | 849.0 | 45.35 |
| 48 | MAAS | NTH 277.0 | 302.0 | 265.0 | 844.0 | 45.09 |
| 49 | ВОССНІ | ITA 304.0 | 238.0 | 301.0 | 843.0 | 45.03 |
| 50 | LAMBARDI | ARG 276.0 | 279.0 | 284.0 | 839.0 | 44.82 |
| 5 I | SZYMANOWSK | IPOL 309.0 | 249.0 | 253.6 | 811.6 | 43.35 |
| 52 | SHIVDASANI | IND 262.0 | 311.0 | 234.0 | 807.0 | 43.11 |

Women's Ranking after 18 Rounds

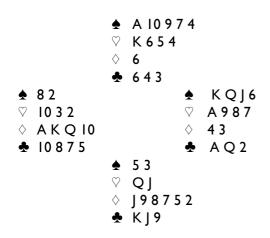
| I | LEVIT-PORAT | ISR 187.0 | 199.0 | 386.0 | 59.57 |
|----|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2 | PICUS | USA 205.0 | 155.0 | 360.0 | 55.56 |
| 3 | BESSIS | FRA 180.0 | 178.0 | 358.0 | 55.25 |
| 4 | LANDY | GBR 182.0 | 174.0 | 356.0 | 54.94 |
| 5 | ROSETTA | ITA 195.0 | 160.0 | 355.0 | 54.78 |
| 6 | ZUR-ALBU | ISR 183.0 | 165.0 | 348.0 | 53.70 |
| 7 | AUKEN | GER 161.0 | 184.0 | 345.0 | 53.24 |
| 8 | SUN | CHN160.0 | 178.8 | 338.8 | 52.28 |
| 9 | WANG | CHN 162.0 | 176.0 | 338.0 | 52.16 |
| 10 | KHALIL | EGY 163.0 | 171.0 | 334.0 | 51.54 |
| П | DELOR | FRA 153.0 | 180.0 | 333.0 | 51.39 |
| 12 | van der PAS | NTH 169.0 | 159.0 | 328.0 | 50.62 |
| 12 | DHONDY | GBR 186.0 | 142.0 | 328.0 | 50.62 |
| 14 | WILLARD | FRA 165.0 | 162.0 | 327.0 | 50.46 |

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14 D'OVIDIO
                FRA 150.0 177.0 327.0
                                         50.46
16 SMITH
                GBR 160.0 164.0 324.0
                                         50.00
16 von ARNIM
                                         50.00
                GER 160.0 164.0 324.0
18 de LUCCHI
                ITA 176.0 144.0 320.0
                                         49.38
19 FLODQVIST
                SWE 136.0 170.0 306.0
                                         47.22
20 LISE
                FRA 144.0 161.0 305.0
                                         47.07
21 CRONIER
                FRA 165.0 134.0 299.0
                                         46.14
22 McGOWAN
                GBR 126.0 172.0 298.0
                                         45.99
23 POLET
                BEL 143.0 151.0 294.0
                                         45.37
24 VRIEND
                NTH 145.0 147.0 292.0
                                         45.06
24 GORDON
                                         45.06
                CAN 154.0 138.0 292.0
26 MEYERS
                USA 147.0 144.0 291.0
                                         44.91
                AUT 131.0 154.0 285.0
                                         43.98
27 ERHART
28 HARASIMOVICZ POL 148.0 131.0 279.0
                                         43.06
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Two Trick Endplay

The most interesting play hand of the first session was

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.



| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Baldursson | Westra | Lambardi | Jourdain |
| Gawrys | Mari | Kholomeev | Bessis |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | INT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

At every table, East opened One No Trump and ended in Three No Trumps, usually by a direct raise from West. Kholomeev was almost the only declarer to succeed.

South led a diamond won in dummy. Which suit should declarer tackle at trick two?

Take first the play at the Editor's table.

At trick two Lambardi took a club finesse. I won and led a second diamond, the eight, which was consistent with a holding that did not include the jack, so Lambardi put up the king. Westra threw a spade. Declarer could not afford to cash his top diamond, so he now finessed a heart. I won and exited with a heart. Declarer now had to play spades from his own hand. Westra won, cashed the heart and exited with a spade. Declarer cashed his major suit winners and, destined to go at least one off, had now to guess who had \$\delta_j\$. If he plays ace and another club South has to concede the last trick to dummy. But Lambardi took the inference that Westra's failure to play a club when in with \$\delta_j\$ meant he held \$\delta_j\$. So he threw North in with the fourth spade to go two off for a shared bottom.

The declarers who played on hearts at trick two also usually failed. South won and played a second diamond and again the finesse was refused. (Perhaps declarer should finesse at trick one, so he has no worries later.) If declarer now finesses hearts again South can exit with a spade; and if North wins the heart he can play a club.

By contrast Kholomeev as declarer led a *spade* at trick two. The king won and he ducked a heart. South led a second diamond. Kholomeev refused the finesse and led a second spade off dummy.

Mari, North, ducked again so the queen won. Now Kholomeev led another low heart which was won by South, Michel Bessis, who had only minor suit cards left. Bessis knew if he exited with the king of clubs he would be end-played again to lead a diamond, so he had to play a diamond first.

Declarer therefore not only got back his two diamond tricks in dummy – he also was able to take a winning heart finesse. This gave him nine tricks.

This was well played, but there were some other points of interest. On the second heart, when South played the queen, declarer made the technical play of unblocking the ten from dummy. This gave Mari the chance to overtake his partner's heart to play a club. Now declarer can only succeed by playing the queen. South cannot avoid giving dummy the lead. Note that declarer fails if he ducks the club — South wins the jack and exits carefully with the club king to end—play declarer into conceding two spade tricks to North.

Note also that if Mari puts his ace of spades on the second round and then plays a club South will win and play a second heart. Declarer lets this hold and South is end-played.

Suppose, finally, North takes his ace of spades on the first round of the suit in order to play a club. Declarer must finesse the queen. South wins this and plays a second diamond, declarer refusing the finesse. Declarer can cash two more spades before exiting with ace and another heart. North cannot afford to overtake because of dummy's ten of hearts, but if South is left on play he is finished.

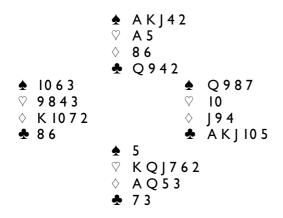
Back to the Ajaccio Festival

By Barry Rigal

Win Allegaert and Jaggy Shivdasani had a spectacularly successful tournament, winning the Open Pairs and the Patten Teams – their attempt to play in the Mixed Pairs to complete the set was less successful!

Their winning margin in the Open Pairs was an astounding 9%. Part of the margin came on this hand against Quantin and Abecassis, where Win drew a delicate inference to be the only declarer to bring home his game.

E/W Vul. Dealer South.



| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Jaggy | | Win |
| _ | _ | _ | I |
| Pass | I♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Dble | 3♡ |
| Pass | 4♡ | All Pass | |

Four hearts is not a terrible contract but the cards do lie very poorly. Win got the $\clubsuit 8$ lead to the nine, ten and his three. East cashed the $\clubsuit A$ and then tried to create trump tricks for his partner by leading the $\clubsuit K - a$ low club would have worked better as the cards lie, but that was far from clear at the time.

Win ruffed high and paused for reflection when West threw the $\clubsuit 3$. The diamond finesse, though tempting, was a broken reed. East had failed to overcall with a good club suit and apparently the $\spadesuit Q$ – he could hardly have the $\lozenge K$ as well.

Backing his judgement, Win drew three rounds of trumps, discovering the bad news, and then cashed the \triangle AK. Now he led the winning \triangle Q and West could not ruff or else he would be endplayed to lead diamonds into the ace—queen. So he discarded a diamond, but Win simply ruffed a spade to hand and endplayed West with his trump winner to lead diamonds in the two—card ending. (West could have defeated the contract by discarding a diamond rather than a spade at trick three, but that does not detract from Allegaert's card reading).

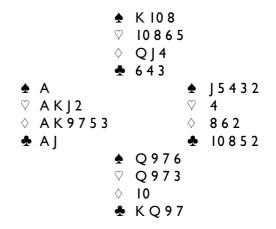
Director!

By Ernesto d'Orsi

In the first session, Gabriel Chagas was the almost passive protagonist of the most amazing bidding sequence seen in the Bridgevision, when Bompis–Abecassis bid up to 60, the trump suit being mentioned for the first time at the six level after five rounds of bidding, with every other suit and NT being mentioned at least twice.

In the second session he passively listened:

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.



| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|-------|--------|
| Delmouly | Zhang | Fucik | Chagas |
| - | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2◊ | Pass |
| 3◊ | Pass | 3♡! | Pass |
| 7♡ | All Pass | | |

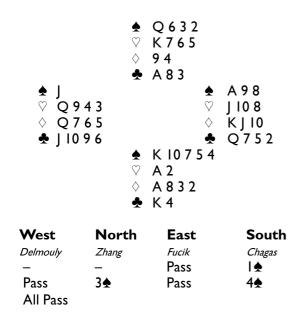
2♣ is forcing, $2\lozenge = \text{neutral}$, $3\lozenge \text{ natural}$ and now Fucik started reading the system which says: "Cheaper minor = second negative through $3\lozenge$ ". Probably he didn't read the first part and bid $3\heartsuit$ as the second negative. He heard $7\heartsuit$ from his partner and immediately after the ♣K opening lead, Fucik yelled for the Director!

Probably he was calling the Director against himself because he misread the system ... this became clearer when Fucik asked the Director if he was obliged to play 7° with the singleton facing AKJx ...

He played, of course, for six down and almost all the matchpoints went to Chagas-Zhang.

Nevertheless Chagas contributed towards the 40 match points he and Zhang got on this round.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.



The opening lead was the ♣J and Chagas proceeded down the following route, searching for another "top". He won the ♣K in hand, played a small diamond to the nine, won the club return and played a trump; East took the ace and played another club, ruffed.

Now trumps were drawn, the \heartsuit A cashed and, of course, West was unable to keep the fourth diamond as well as the four hearts. Five spades making was worth 20 out of the 24 match points, keeping Chagas in third place in the general ranking after 22 rounds of the Generali Masters.

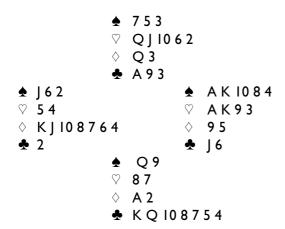
The Editor / Player

By Guy Dupont

My friend and colleague, Patrick Jourdain is between the devil and the deep blue sea in the Fourth Generali Masters ... he is, in fact, both Editor of the Daily Bulletin and a player. How does he manage to do both? It really does pose many problems. As a journalist, I often ask him for a hand or an article for one of my columns, and he replies "Of course I have a hand for you!" Now he is a player as well, and asks me for a hand for the Bulletin, so I am glad to be able to respond and provide one for him - especially such a hand, where he played so well.

Here is the story of a lovely coup that happened during board 18 of the second session:

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Helgemo | Auken | Jourdain | Stoppa |
| _ | _ | I♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 3♣ | 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4 ♦ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

Bidding the game in spades was one thing. Making it was another. Stoppa led the \clubsuit K and Auken took his ace to play the \heartsuit Q. After the \heartsuit A, Patrick Jourdain played a diamond and took his first good decision when South played the \diamondsuit 2 by calling for the \diamondsuit K. Then he played another diamond and had the pleasant experience of seeing the \diamondsuit Q and \diamondsuit A fall together.

Stoppa now led the ΦQ and Jourdain took his second good decision – not to ruff but to discard a diamond from the dummy. Now suddenly the end was easy, as he ruffed the next club in hand, cashed the top spades dropping the queen, and crossed to the jack of spades, drawing the last trump, to reach the good diamonds.

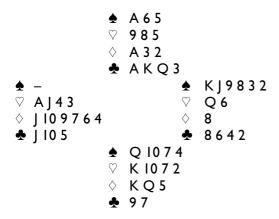
The editor-player scored 21/24 for this excellent play.

The Commentator's Chari-Vari

By Barry Rigal

The Mens Second Session

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

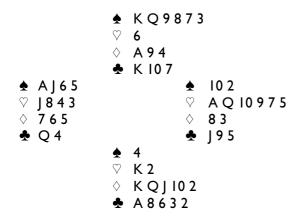


| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|---------|---------|
| Levy | Sharif | Cronier | Helgemo |
| _ | INT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2◊ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

It might be considered a routine point of technique, but Alain Levy showed that he could defend effectively against the squeeze on this hand.

Omar had an unopposed auction to 3NT (many tables intervened with the E/W cards) and received the \$8 lead. He correctly put in the ten, crossed to hand with a diamond and ran the $\heartsuit9$. If Levy continues with a diamond, Cronier gets squeezed in the black suits. But Levy won the $\heartsuit1$ and played the \$1, then won the $\heartsuit4$ to lead the \$10. This effectively cut declarer's communications — if the defence do not play clubs twice, declarer can cash the \$4 as a Vienna coup, and run his red suit winners to generate 11 tricks.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

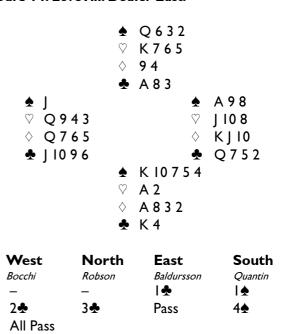


| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------|----------|----------------|
| Stoppa | Kholomeev | Jourdain | Justin Hackett |
| _ | _ | 2♡ | 3♦ |
| 3♡ | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Vadim Kholomeev has not been having a very successful tournament so far, but he reached the optimum spot on this hand and then gave it the best play.

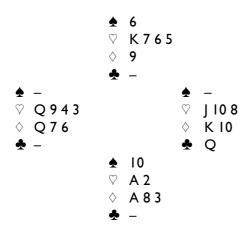
As North he had an awkward decision at his first turn to speak: would $3 \triangleq$ have been forcing? To avoid that problem he simply jumped to $4 \triangleq$ and received the lead of the $\heartsuit A$ and a club switch. He took this in dummy, threw his club loser on the $\heartsuit K$ and then led a trump to the $\clubsuit K$ and carefully followed up with the $\spadesuit Q$, pinning the $\spadesuit 10$ and holding his trump losers to two to make his contract. (The alternative line of leading a low trump to the seven initially is far less likely to hold your trump losers to two. If trumps are 3-3 all lines succeed.)

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.



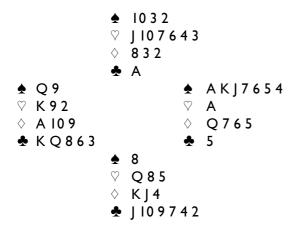
Somehow you rather expect the commentators to play less well than the participants – if they could do better they would be taking part in the event! During the session, Jean–Christophe Quantin showed that he could play a squeeze single–dummy far better than the eminent panel of commentators could manage at double–dummy.

When Bocchi led the ♣J, Quantin won it in hand and played a trump to the jack and queen. Baldursson ducked, so Quantin ducked a diamond in return. Now I believe a second diamond is best, but Jon cashed the ♣A and led a second spade. Quantin won and led a club to the ace and ruffed a club. This was the ending:



As you can see, West still has to discard, and whichever red suit he discards allows declarer to ruff out the suit and take the rest. Very nicely played.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South



| West | North | East | South |
|------------|---------|--------|----------|
| Delmouly | Richman | Gawrys | Hackett |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| ♣ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♦ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5◊ | Pass | 6♠ | All Pass |

The two leaders of the tournament, Piotr Gawrys and Bobby Richman, were involved in a comedy of errors on this hand, with Gawrys coming off far the better.

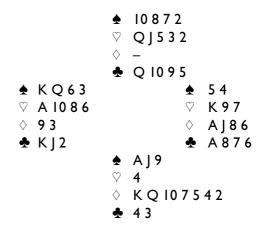
Piotr had reached a delicate slam, and Justin Hackett led the ♣J to trick one. Gawrys naturally covered this and Richman had to shift to a diamond to beat the contract legitimately – I think he should do so. When he played a heart, declarer was in with a chance.

The winning line is to cross to dummy's $\mathbf{\Phi}Q$, lead the ∇K , then ruff a club to run the trumps and squeeze South in the minors. Gawrys followed a different approach; if South had only four clubs without the $\Diamond K$, the winning line was very different. Gawrys led a spade to the $\mathbf{\Phi}9$ (intending to

ruff a club, go back to the \PQ , ruff another club and claim.) He made the fine decision to play low from dummy, by saying "spade"* not "nine of spades." Richman followed low, in sleep, and Gawrys ruffed a club and reverted to the winning minor suit squeeze when Hackett showed out, to make his slam.

* Editor: The Laws of Bridge do NOT say "spade" must mean "low spade". Players who use this lazy description are contravening one Law and running a major risk.An Appeal Committee has the right to decide that "spade" means "high spade" depending on the context.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



Hackett and Richman exacted revenge on the next deal, where Gawrys reached a thin game and ran into an accurate defence.

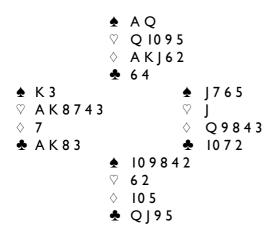
| West | North | East | South |
|------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Delmouly | Richman | Gawrys | Hackett |
| l ♣ | Ι♡ | Dble | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♡ | 2NT | 3◊ |
| Pass | Pass | 3NT | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

Hackett led the $\Diamond K$ and Gawrys took it to lead a club to the jack and queen. Richman played a spade, and dummy's queen won. Now a heart to the jack and king and a heart ducked to Richman saw him exit with a second spade.

Hackett took the ace and carefully got off play with a club and the defence had the upper hand. There was nothing that Gawrys could do in diamonds without surrendering the setting trick.

Jens Auken claimed that if you ducked the first trick, you could arrange to squeeze North in the black suits. If you do that, you certainly have to duck the first club as well – but is that sufficient? I leave it to the arm-chair analysts!

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



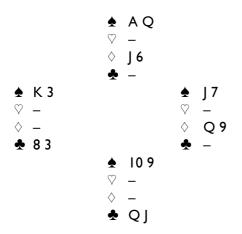
| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|-----------|----------|
| Mari | Wang | Abecassis | Jourdain |
| _ | INT | Pass | 2♡ |
| Dble | Pass | Pass | 2♠ |
| Dble | Pass | 3◊ | Pass |
| 3♡ | Dble | All Pass | |

Christian Mari managed a conjuring trick on this deal, to avoid disaster in Three Hearts doubled.

The defence started well, cashing the $\Diamond A$ and shifting to the ∇Q . Mari in turn won the trick and thoughtfully exited with the $\nabla 7$ to give Wang the lead.

He got out with the $\clubsuit6$ and Mari took the $\clubsuit9$ with his king to play off two more rounds of trumps. Wang was in again and led the \diamondsuit K, allowing Mari to ruff and take his last trump and the \clubsuit A.

This was the ending:

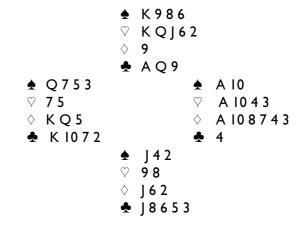


Mari exited with a low spade, and Wang scored the $\mathbf{\Phi}Q$ and $\mathbf{\Phi}A$, but had to concede the last two tricks to dummy.

However, both West and North were at fault here: Wang could have achieved +300 by winning the $\triangle A$ and exiting with the $\triangle A$. And Mari should have led the $\triangle A$ first – that

ensures he escapes for one down.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

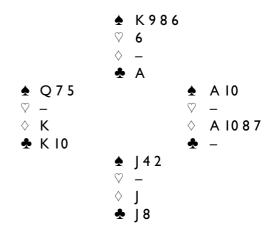


| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------|------|----------|
| Freeman | Westra | Wang | Gawrys |
| - | ΙØ | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3♦ | Dble | Rdbl | Pass |
| Pass | 3♡ | Dble | All Pass |

Berry Westra also demonstrated Houdini-like techniques to escape lightly in Three Hearts doubled after his opponents had given him a chance to wriggle off the hook.

Had Wang led the $\lozenge A$ and continued the suit he had an easy 500, but he led a low club to Westra's nine. The $\heartsuit J$ held, then Wang took the $\heartsuit K$ with the ace to underlead in diamonds.

Freeman assumed his partner knew what he was doing, so led back a club for Wang to ruff. Now declarer ruffed the next diamond and drew the last trump. This was the ending:

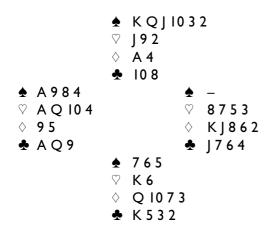


Westra led the $\triangle K$ to cut the defensive communications. He ruffed the diamond return and led a spade to the jack and when the $\triangle 10$ appeared he had miraculously escaped for one down and -100, a great result.

The Women's Series, Session One

By Tony Gordon

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

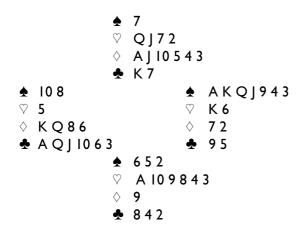


West North East South

INT 2♠ All Pass

East leads the $\lozenge 2$. You play the $\lozenge 10$ and it holds. What now? At the table, declarer crossed to the $\lozenge A$ and played a heart to the king and ace. West won and switched to a low trump. Eventually declarer lost three hearts, two clubs and a spade for one down. Of course, West might have withheld the $\lozenge K$ at trick one, but if you believe that East has led from $\lozenge K$ –J, then West must have all the other high cards and a low heart at trick two stands out.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West



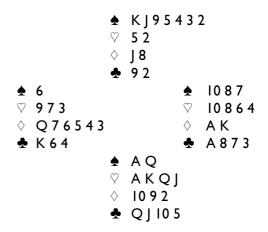
| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| Zur-Albu | Dhondy | Levit-Porat | Harasimovicz |
| ♣ | I♦ | I♠ | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2◊ | 2♡ |
| 3♣ | 3♡ | 4♠ | All Pass |

North/South can make 5° on this hand but they usually sold out to 4^{\bullet} . The sole pair who played in 5° , doubled by East, went one down when South spurned the trump finesse.

At the table in question, North could have doubled $2\clubsuit$ to show hearts, but North/South were given a second chance when East chose to cue bid $2\diamondsuit$. Now South could come in with $2\heartsuit$ but East was still allowed to play in $4\spadesuit$.

South led the $\lozenge 9$ and North won with the ace and returned the $\lozenge 10$ for South to ruff. However, South took the $\lozenge 10$ as suit preference and proceeded to underlead the $\heartsuit A.A$ grateful declarer was soon drawing trumps and pitching her losing club on the $\lozenge Q$ for an overtrick and all the matchpoints.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.



Board 17 left some players with egg on their faces.

The normal auction was $3 \triangleq$ by North followed by a raise to $4 \triangleq$ by South.At two tables East cashed \lozenge AK then played \triangleq A and another club. West won her \triangleq K and continued craftily with a low diamond and both declarers viewed to ruff with the \triangleq 9 and went two down.

At another table, East cashed the \Diamond KA and then switched to the \clubsuit 7. West won her \clubsuit K and continued with the \Diamond Q. Declarer ruffed high and was soon claiming her contract. Presumably West thought she had shown six diamonds and was being put in to lead a third diamond and promote her partner's \spadesuit Jxx, but if the \clubsuit 7 was a true card, then declarer had to have another club.

