

BEST-PLAYED HAND

JOURNALISTS v PROFESSIONALS

EW vul, dealer N

♠ A Q J 7 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 10 9
♣ J 10 8

♠ K 9 4 2
♥ A K Q 8
♦ K 5
♣ A K Q

N
W E
S

♠ 8 6 5
♥ 10 9 4
♦ A Q 7 6
♣ 7 3 2

♠ 10
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ 9 6 5 4

Table 1	S	W	N	E
			No	No
	No	2♠	2♦	No
	No	x	No	3♦
	No	4♥	end	

R Markus (N), M Wolach (Journalists);
D Edwin (E), *R Sampson (*prize winner)

Table 2	S	W	N	E
			1♦(i)	No
	No	x	No	2♦
	No	3N	end	

(i) 7-10 hcp: 5+ ♦

R Smolski (N), N Selway; D Bird (E), T Priday

Declarer in Room 1 played a very pretty one-suit squeeze to make sure of 11 tricks on this deal. He won the ♠ lead in hand and cashed two top trumps, unblocking the 10 and 9 in dummy. Then he took dummy's ♠A-♦Q, discarding a ♠ from hand, finesses ♥8, cashes the last trump, and three clubs. This reduced the hand to:

♠ K 9 4 ♠ 8 6 5
♥ 10
♦ x
♣ x

Now, if N kept ♠ A K Q, as she did, declarer could exit with a small ♠ and subsequently score the king. Alternatively, if she reduced to A Q 7, declarer could exit with ♠ K and subsequently score the ♠9. The pyrotechnics were necessary...

The overtrick was important in view of:

- The prosaic 3N+2 on ♠ lead in the other room;
- The element of point-a-board scoring.

In the Ireland v Gold Cup winners match, the Irish opened a weak 2♦. E passed and S raised to 3♦!! This helped E-W to misjudge the ♥ position. W doubled, E bid 4♥, W 4NT (doubled by N), E 5♦, W 6♥. This contract went two down.

One comentator suggested that as well as being entered for the best played hand prize, the deal should also be entered twice for the worst bid!!