

L E D E R E R 94

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A

PRIZE WINNING HANDS

BEST BID

The Best Bid prize was awarded to Martin Hoffman and Demetri Marchessini of the Naturals team for the following simple auction to slam:

Dealer N, North/South vulnerable

	A Q 10 9 6 4			
	A 2			
	J			
	A K 7 6			
J 8 5 2		K 3	N	S
K Q 3		J 10 5 4		
9 8 5 4		K Q 7 5 3	2S	2NT
Q 2		10 3	3C	6C
	7			
	9 8 7 6			
	A 10 2			
	J 9 8 5 4			

North, Martin Hoffman, opened a strong 2S and South, Demetri Marchessini bid 2NT negative. Now North's 3C bid showed his second suit and Marchessini wasted no time in bidding the slam.

Four diamonds from Marchessini might have been a more accurate bid at his second turn, but would have betrayed the heart situation. In fact, on a diamond lead the slam is superb - and made 13 tricks. Even with a heart lead it will make most of the time the CQ falls in two rounds, and even without that there are some chances.

Some might argue with the 2S opening, but North can see that game could be lay down opposite as little as jack to four spades - and 1S might be passed out, as it was at another table!

In fact the hand was played in part-score at three tables, whilst three others played in 5C and one in 4S. This was the only time slam was reached - a triumph for natural bidding!