

## Patrick Jourdain writes from the 1996 LCCBA Lederer Finals:

Board 4            ♠     K  
 Dir: West        ♥     10 6 5 2  
 Game all        ♦     Q 6 5  
                   ♣     Q J 9 7 6

♠     Q 9 5 2	♠     A J 8 7
♥     K J 8	♥     A 7 4 3
♦     J 8 2	♦     10 7
♣     A 10 3	♣     K 4 2

♠     10 6 4 3  
 ♥     Q 9  
 ♦     A K 9 4 3  
 ♣     8 5

### BEST PLAY: (Recovery!) Zia Mahmood

London v. All Stars Round 1  
 Author: Patrick Jourdain

West	North	East	South
Zia	Callaghan	Rubin	Burn
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Zia and Ronnie Rubin, a former world bridge and backgammon champion, stopped at the apparently safe level of Three Spades. But golfer Zia put his second shot in the bushes and had to find a brilliant recovery shot to recover his par.

North, Brian Callaghan, led a diamond, which David Burn won to switch to a club. Zia won in hand and led the QUEEN of spades, covered by king and ace, and came back with a successful heart finesse of the jack, to lead another trump. When North showed out, Zia produced an expression which Burn described as: "The Pakistani equivalent of 'Merde!'".

Zia put in the seven, and South won the ten to play another club, taken by dummy's king. The heart suit can be picked up, but not unblocked, because South has four trumps, and only

two hearts. Zia drew all the trumps ending in hand. On the last trump North had to keep all his hearts and a winning club, so was forced to part with the crucial six of diamonds. Zia cashed the heart king, dropping South's queen. Then though there was no outside entry to dummy, he ran the eight of hearts, North, of course, withholding the ten. Zia now excited with a club to North.

When North tried to exit with the queen of diamonds, South had a problem with no solution. If he overtook he would have to concede the last trick to West's jack of diamonds; if he left North on play with the queen, North would have to concede the last trick to dummy's ace of hearts.