

## Make or Break

E/W Vul. Dealer South.			
		♠	AJ9
		♥	754
		♦	Q1074
		♣	Q87
♠	75	♠	K432
♥	AK1082	♥	96
♦	AK865	♦	32
♣	4	♣	109652
		♠	Q1086
		♥	QJ3
		♦	J9
		♣	AKJ3
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Hauge</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Jason</i>
2NT(b)	Dble	Pass	1NT(a)
3♦	Dble	All Pass	Pass

(a) 14-16

(b) clubs or reds

Over South's 14-16 NT Rune Hauge employed an interesting gadget; 2NT showing clubs or both red-suits. North doubled and then doubled the run-out to 3D which East guessed to pass.

North led a normal club and South won to switch necessarily to a trump, and Rune cashed the ace and king of hearts and ruffed a heart. Now he ruffed a club and cashed a top diamond noting the fall of the jack from South. He now had to decide whether to try to make the contract by playing for diamonds to be 3-3 or to settle for one down by continuing hearts. Indeed, North has to discard spades on West's hearts to beat it, and he can now win the last four tricks to set the contract one. Instead Rune played a third diamond and that was -500.

In the other room, West overcalled 2H, and North bid a natural 2NT which is rare in these days of Lebensohl or Rubensohl.. West backed in with 3D, North doubled, but E/W were allowed to play 3H undoubled. To beat these, the defence need to force with clubs at every opportunity, and South will get two overruffs and North will eventually make the seven of hearts! The trump lead that was chosen meant that South only obtained one overruff and there was no longer time to force declarer, so a big swing to Norway in the match against the Gold Cup team.

## Six is Best

N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	♠ 4	
	♥ J7	
	♦ AK96	
	♣ Q108753	
♠ 8752		♠ 109
♥ 843		♥ AKQ109652
♦ 10832		♦ Q
♣ AK		♣ 42
	♠ AKQJ63	
	♥ None	
	♦ J754	
	♣ J96	

West	North	East	South
<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Rosen</i>	<i>Gold</i>
		4♥	4♠
5♥	Dble	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

At most tables the South hand passed the double of the inevitable 5H from West and collected +100. David Gold pressed on with 5S instead. This would have been very close, as West must lead hearts at every turn, resisting the temptation to lead a top club which costs a fatal tempo. In fact no table managed to defeat 5S, so maybe Neil Rosen was right to take out insurance and press on to 6H. David Gold's good judgement would have won him the board in many matches, but in the other room, West optimistically elected to defend 4S, and there was certainly no defence to that.

## Ferdinand

Love All. Dealer West.

	♠ 1064	
	♥ K95	
	♦ Q982	
	♣ Q93	
♠ A852		♠ Q97
♥ 76		♥ Q1084
♦ 743		♦ J106
♣ J1064		♣ 852
	♠ KJ3	
	♥ AJ32	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ AK7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Matheson</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A dreadful joke I was once told was “Why did the England defender open on a nine-count?” As you might have guessed, it was “Because he was Ferdinand”. It was a bit of a surprise to see two Easts open third in hand on the balanced five-count however.

Professional poker player Jon Cooke tried to “steal the blinds” with 1S, but the “Learned Doctor” in the South seat knew a good hand when he saw one, and brushed aside the psyche by bidding 3NT on the next round. West led a normal spade, and Matheson won the nine with the jack crossed to the king of hearts and finessed the jack successfully. He then cashed the ace and king of diamonds, noting the fall of East’s jack, and now cashed the queen of diamonds, as if West had four diamonds, he could be thrown in to lead away from his ace of spades after cashing three clubs, as West’s shape would be 4-2-4-3. He now cashed the last diamond on which East threw a club, as did West, fatally, and now three rounds of clubs, ending in North, squeezed Easts in the majors. He bared the queen of spades, but South led a spade to the queen, king and ace, scoring an improbable +690 and winning the point a board.

In the Young Chelsea v Holders match, East had learnt at the Andrew Robson bridge club to open his longest suit, so started with a natural One Heart!. South still drove to 3NT in short order, and West led a heart to the eight and jack. This time declarer did not know East had psyched – he might have had a ten count. He crossed to the king of hearts and led a spade to the jack, but Andy Robson ducked smoothly in the West seat. The declarer had no reason to get the diamonds right, and played restricted choice by finessing the nine on the third round of diamonds, losing to the jack. East led another spade, and the king lost to the ace, and that was only ten tricks and a win on the board.

### Subterfuge

Love All. Dealer North.

	♠ 103	
	♥ QJ97	
	♦ AQJ8	
	♣ A65	
♠ A742		♠ KJ65
♥ K6		♥ None
♦ 653		♦ K9742
♣ QJ93		♣ K1084
	♠ Q98	
	♥ A1085432	
	♦ 10	
	♣ 72	

West	North	East	South
<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Jason</i>
	1NT(a)	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Dble	3♦*
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

a) 14-16

After South’s transfer to hearts, North’s 2NT showed a minimum with four hearts. East doubled (takeout of hearts), and South’s further diamond calls were to transfers to hearts. John Carroll doubled the final contract and won the spade lead and switched

accurately to the queen of clubs. This prevents declarer taking a ruffing diamond finesse as he lacks a quick entry to the North hand. The legitimate line is to take a normal diamond finesse, but Tommy Garvey, unlike his namesake Martin, has a fairly conventional approach to the takeout double, and was unlikely to have tried it on a 7-count in a live auction. Justin therefore tried the ace of diamonds and followed with the jack. This caught Tommy Garvey napping (although if West had the queen of diamonds it would not have cost to cover) and he ducked. Away went the club loser, and North-South scored +590. The Hacketts thus covered the bad result in the other room where de Botton and Malinowski had found the phantom sacrifice in 5C doubled for -500, and this was a 3 IMP pickup for the Gold Cup team. If you are not going to give in to Four Hearts, Four Spades by West looks a much better two-way shot over 4H, and North has to lead the ace of diamonds to beat it and that looks quite tough to find.

## Grand Rapids

Love All Dealer North.

♠ 102	
♥ K9754	
♦ J963	
♣ J7	
♠ AKQ	♠ 987643
♥ Q2	♥ A8
♦ AK8	♦ Q754
♣ AK1093	♣ Q
	♠ J5
	♥ J1063
	♦ 102
	♣ 86542

West	North	East	South
<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Robson</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥ (a)	Pass	2♠ (b)	Pass
2NT(c)	Pass	3♥ (d)	Pass
3♠ (e)	Pass	4♣ (e)	Pass
4♦ (f)	Pass	4NT(g)	Pass
5♦ (h)	Pass	5♥ (i)	Pass
7♠ (i)			

Some pairs reached a grand here more rapidly than Osborne and Hinden, but few bid it with the degree of confidence that they showed, and their auction (and one other) had some interesting points, and the hand would be a good one for a bidding challenge. After the normal 2C-2D start, West bid 2H which showed hearts or 24+ (I think it is slightly better to play that it is hearts or 22-23, as East can then get out into 3 of a minor, but that is a small point). Now East relayed, West showed the balanced hand, East transferred to spades and West showed three spades (3NT would have denied three). East then had a gadget, and 4C was a slam-try with four plus diamonds. 4D cued and showed suitability, 4NT asked, and then 5H asked about the queen of trumps. West was pretty sure there were 13 top tricks now, and so it proved. Gold and Townsend had a similar sequence with different meanings, when East cued 4C over 3S, and West cued 4D. East asked for key cards and then asked for the queen of trumps with 5H. Now Tom bid 6H showing either the king of hearts or both minor suits kings (another little gadget worth adding to your armoury). East was pretty sure it was the latter and bid the grand with only slightly less confidence than Osborne and Hinden. Others had more

esoteric auctions to the grand – particularly Zia and Bakhshi where the former opened a weak 2S – second in hand at that.

## Careless Remark

Love All. Dealer North.

♠ AQ109	
♥ 10	
♦ 874	
♣ Q9752	
♠ K75	♠ 432
♥ QJ52	♥ AK83
♦ A1032	♦ J65
♣ A10	♣ K83
	♠ J86
	♥ 9764
	♦ KQ9
	♣ J64

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Hauge</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

There was a propaganda campaign in World War II, called “Careless Talk Costs Lives”, and this has recently been the theme of a new exhibition of art on London Underground. Interestingly, the London *Standard* has become a free newspaper under the ownership of Russian oligarch Alexander Lebedev, and we all hope that more and more people will read David Bird’s excellent bridge column therein. David, in conjunction with Barry Rigal and Ian Payn, entertained the audience at YC bridge club with his witty and instructive ideas on bridge

Fitzgibbon opened a 14-16 NT in fourth seat, and Mesbur did not want to give anything away about West’s major suit holdings with a careless 2C enquiry and just raised to 3NT. North led a normal club, and West won, crossed to the king of hearts, and led a diamond. South did very well to split (if he ducks, then four rounds of hearts triple squeeze North and he can be thrown in to give declarer his ninth trick in spades). West won, and played a second diamond, North having played 4 (normal count), 8. Now South needs to switch to the jack of spades, playing North for spades as good as AQ10x, but perhaps influenced by the ten of hearts, which could have been a Smith Peter, he continued clubs fatally. If West had ♠ KQxx ♥ Qxx ♦ A10xx ♣ A10, his defence would have been right, so I have a lot of sympathy for Rune’s choice. It is true that with that hand, declarer could have attached North’s spade entry early on, but he is not blessed with second sight.

## Restricted Entry

E/W Vul. Dealer South.			
♠ None			
♥ K10852			
♦ AK52			
♣ A1092			
♠ AKJ10864		♠ 95	
♥ Q6		♥ AJ9	
♦ 1063		♦ QJ7	
♣ 8		♣ K7543	
♠ Q732			
♥ 743			
♦ 984			
♣ QJ6			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Silverstone</i>	<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Dixon</i>	<i>Furunes</i>
1H(b)	Dble	1♣ (a)	Pass
4♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
		All Pass	

- (a) Polish style
- (b) Spades
- (c) Not 3 spades

Victor Silverstone is always a most welcome visitor to the analysis room, as he usually provides a couple of interesting hands – often featuring his team-mates – which he recounts in his broad Scottish accent. The above was typical of the rough and tumble of international play, with a chance for both sides to do better. 1C was clubs or balanced, and 1H showed spades, in the modern style. East denied three spades with pass, and West closed proceedings with a jump to game, and North offered the opinion that this would not make. North cashed his minor suit winners and exited with a club ruffed by West, a key play. Now Victor feels he should have taken a first round trump finesse (he needs the heart finesse always) but he recovered well from the bunker. He cashed the ace of spades, discovering the bad news, and then led a heart to the jack. Now he repeated the spade finesse, crossed to a diamond, ruffed another club, crossed to the ace of hearts and led another club to trump coup South in the two-card ending.

You will no doubt have spotted North's error; he should insert the king of hearts on the first round of the suit, and declarer is an entry short. And better still if he exited with a diamond rather than a club - he would not have even had to find this play.

## Minor Premise

Game All. Dealer East.			
		♠ AK832	
		♥ 42	
		♦ AK87	
		♣ 102	
♠ 107			♠ Q964
♥ A10763			♥ KQJ8
♦ 963			♦ 5
♣ 874			♣ J963
		♠ J5	
		♥ 95	
		♦ QJ1042	
		♣ AKQ5	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥(a)	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦		

(a) FSF

Judgement played a big part in the auction here, and North-South have that in spades, having played in many Lederers. Indeed continuations after fourth suit forcing are notoriously difficult, as expert commentator Barry Rigal explained to the audience. Barry maintained a good balance over the two days between theoretical discussions and general chat about the world and US bridge scene.

In our hand above, if South had ♠Ax or ♠Kx, it would be right to show that over 3D, as 4S is likely to be best, with ♠Qx it is very close, but again 3S is the right bid. With ♠Jx it is just too tough, and one can hardly fault Teltscher's choice of 4D. Interestingly, this auction was replicated exactly by Green and Hillman for the Young Chelsea Champions.

There is nothing to the play in 5D, but Carroll and Garvey were in Four Spades in the other room against Dixon and Silverstone. That had to be beaten, and Victor Silverstone showed that the simple way was to lead hearts at every opportunity. But even here there was a trap to avoid. He started with the king of hearts and then continued cunningly with the queen. Dixon did not know where the jack was, so could not get in the way by overtaking. Now Victor could continue with a third heart, and declarer had no recourse. He tried a spade towards dummy, but Victor rose, and exited with a diamond. Declarer could win and cash the jack of spades, but could not get back to North without promoting a trump for East. 12 IMPs to the Presidents Team.

## Promotion Opportunity

Love All. Dealer North.

	♠ AKQJ93	
	♥ AQ7	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 843	
♠ 10872		♠ 654
♥ 103		♥ K982
♦ KQJ95		♦ 8
♣ K2		♣ A10975
	♠ None	
	♥ J654	
	♦ A106432	
	♣ QJ6	

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Irens</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

A simple auction from Erichsen and Irens, the Premier League winners, let to a reasonable game. East made the natural lead of his singleton diamond, and Erichsen won in dummy and finessed the queen of hearts. East won with the king, and now switched to a low club. West won with the king, and now needed to play a second club to get his club ruff. Instead he played for East to have the nine of spades, but if East had that card he should have continued with the ace and then king of clubs, so that West would have no choice but to play a diamond. When West played a second diamond, Erichsen ruffed with the nine and drew trumps, shortly afterwards recording +420.

In the other room Scoltock was in 3NT as South, but that had little chance on the lead of a top diamond, and the defence duly won the king of hearts to go with their four minor-suit winners. That was 10 IMPs to England, the Premier League winners.



## Maximum Break

E/W Vul. Dealer South.			
		♠ K97	
		♥ A98	
		♦ A1095	
		♣ AQ9	
♠ 864			♠ A2
♥ K75			♥ Q6432
♦ K732			♦ 6
♣ 732			♣ KJ1086
		♠ QJ1053	
		♥ J10	
		♦ QJ84	
		♣ 54	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Small</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Irens</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥*
All Pass			4♠

It is normal only to break a transfer with four-card support. Espen Erichsen had no such inhibition and bid 2NT with only three cards and a complete maximum. In fact the hand is so good he might have adjusted it and opened 1D instead., planning to rebid 2NT. Norman Selway retransferred, so that that North could play the hand, and raised to game. With North at the helm, 11 tricks were available, and Espen duly scored +450. In the other room, the Norwegian North just bid 2S, and that was 8 IMPs to England.

Another good hand for a bidding challenge.