

The Hague Bridge Experience

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Saturday 20 August

Memory Lane

Mark Horton

I have lost count of the number of trips I have made to The Hague and Scheveningen to either play or work at the many outstanding events that have taken place here.

When, back in 1992, the Hoechst Company announced that its long time support for one of the world's best bridge tournaments would be coming to an end, most organisers would have decided enough was enough. However, the remarkable Elly Ducheyne sought out and found a new sponsor, the famous Forbo Linoleum group.

It was in that same year alongside Richard Winter, Brian Senior & Steve Ray that I managed to win the last edition of the Hoechst and the following year we almost won the first edition of the Forbo.

In 1994 Jan van Cleef reported this deal from the match between Ray and Germany:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q642	♠ 95	♠ J87
♥ KQ4	♥ AJ763	♥ 1052
♦ 9652	♦ K74	♦ Q3
♣ 85	♣ J42	♣ AQ1093
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ AK103	
	♥ 98	
	♦ AJ108	
	♣ K76	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zenkel</i>	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Nippgen</i>	<i>Horton</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sabine Zenkel is now much better known as Sabine Auken!

West led the two of diamonds (in the other room West led a spade for the jack and ace and declarer ran the nine of hearts. East won with the ten and switched to the queen of clubs, going back to spade when it held, ensuring one down) and declarer took the queen with the ace and

ran the nine of hearts. East won and switched to the queen of clubs. When that held East continued with the ace of clubs and a club. With open cards declarer can play on hearts, but declarer followed a different course, crossing to dummy with a diamond and playing the nine of spades, running it when East followed with the eight. West could win with the queen, but now the spades were good and declarer had three spades, four diamonds, a heart and a club.

If East covers the nine of spades declarer wins, cashes two diamonds (forcing West to pitch a spade) and then playing two rounds of hearts, forcing West to lead into the ♠K10.

That same year we encountered this deal in our match against the Dutch women:

Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 752	♠ Q943	♠ AK106
♥ AQ5	♥ 76	♥ 9843
♦ A104	♦ 652	♦ QJ73
♣ QJ109	♣ K643	♣ 5
	♠ J8	
	♥ KJ102	
	♦ K98	
	♣ A872	

In the Closed Room Steve Ray had taken four tricks in his contract of 1NT and was hoping for a swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Winter</i>		<i>Horton</i>	
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Double*	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		
Double Asking for a spade lead			

West led the queen of clubs and declarer won in dummy and played a heart for the jack and queen. Winning the return of the nine of clubs with the ace declarer tried a spade to the nine, and East won with the ten and switched to the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. West drew trumps and the defenders were not hard pressed to take the rest for six down, -1400.

To illustrate what a wonderful topsy-turvy game bridge can be we won our group in 1966 -and then finished a fine last in the final!

In 1997 The European Pairs Championships were played in The Hague and I penned the following article:

The Multicoloured Tulip

Alexandre Dumas's 'The Black Tulip' was published in 1850. All the action is set in 17th Century Holland and The Hague features prominently in the early chapters. For those not familiar with the story, it involves the efforts of Cornelius Van Barle to produce the first black tulip, despite being wrongfully imprisoned for the possession of incriminating papers left with him by his godfather, of one of the two De Witte brothers, who are brutally murdered at the beginning of the story. It also tells of his romance with Rosa, the daughter of his jailer, Gryphus, and the efforts of his jealous rival (for the tulip, not Rosa!) Isaac Boxtel, to steal the tulip from him.

The tulip was first introduced into Holland in 1571 and in no time at all Amsterdam, Haarlem, Hoorn, Utrecht and Rotterdam were set up as centres of a new trade that continues today. What is not so well known is that Dumas had originally intended that the book be linked to bridge, which, like the tulip, was sweeping through Holland at the time. The grand finale was to be a match between teams captained by William of Orange and Van Barle. We have been fortunate enough to obtain part of that long lost manuscript and we reproduce an extract from the soon to be published novel entitled 'The Multicoloured Tulip'. It had, thought Cornelius Van Barle, by anybody's standards, been a pretty poor month. Following the death of his father, his lifelong bridge partner, the other two members of his all conquering team, Cornelius and John De Witte, had been viciously murdered by a mob in The Hague. It was rumoured that their deaths had been planned by their arch rivals, the team led by William of Orange. The same day that they had been murdered he had been arrested on a charge of hiding seditious papers in his house. So far as he was aware, for he had never found the time to look at them, the documents handed to him by his godfather were nothing more than his latest ideas on bridge, which broke new ground in the development of multi-meaning opening bids. After a brief trial he had been sentenced to life imprisonment and was quickly despatched to the prison at Loevestein. It was a miserable existence, enlightened only by the attachment he had formed with Gryphus's daughter Rosa and the occasional game of bridge which her father from time to time allowed. Cornelius had taught Rosa to play and that evening after supper they settled down to play against Gryphus and Isaac Boxtel. Cornelius had no idea that Boxtel was determined to try and obtain a copy of his bidding system, which he intended to publish and claim as his own. This was one of the early boards:

Dealer East. North/South Game.

	♠ J10863	
	♥ Q3	
	♦ 94	
	♣ KQ104	
♠ KQ95	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 74
♥ 102		♥ A7654
♦ QJ1063		♦ 7
♣ A3		♣ 98762
	♠ A2	
	♥ KJ98	
	♦ AK852	
	♣ J5	

West led the two of hearts. Boxtall put in dummy's eight and East won the trick with the queen. He returned a trump which was taken in dummy. Declarer's first move was to try to bring down the jack of hearts. He played the king from dummy, forcing East to cover, and ruffed in hand. He continued with the ace of spades and a spade ruff, noting the fall of East's queen. He was disappointed when West's heart on the next trick proved to be the nine. It was time to take stock. He could finesse either way in diamonds or he could ruff another spade, hoping East had started with ♠KQ7. Eventually he decided to combine the two possibilities and ruffed another spade. When the king did not appear, he ruffed a heart back to hand and drew the remaining trump. Eventually he took the losing diamond finesse and was one down. Van Barle smiled inwardly. The advice he had received about overcalling with length in the opener's suit from old Friar Lawrence was not so bad after all. That night as he lay in his cell, Van Barle contemplated his situation. Surely there must be something in life more exciting than bridge? Why of course, there were tulips! Suppose he were to invent a new variety perhaps, just like one of his many bridge conventions, one of many colours. Of course, it would be named the Multicoloured Tulip.

In the last edition of the Forbo in 2002 I played with my good friend Jean Paul Meyer, alongside Pierre Adad and Pierre Guillamin.

On this deal I was the victim of a brilliant opening lead:

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

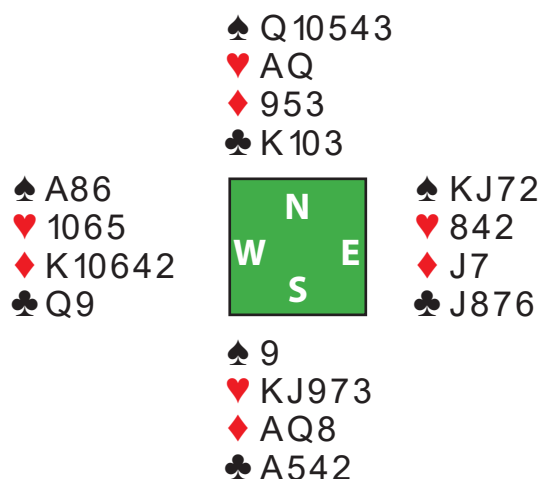
♠ 9
 ♥ K J 9 7 3
 ♦ A Q 8
 ♣ A 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Meyer</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>Horton</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the six of spades, and after a long think, East puts in the jack and switches to the seven of diamonds. You play low, but West wins with the ten and plays back a spade to East's king. The jack of diamonds comes next.

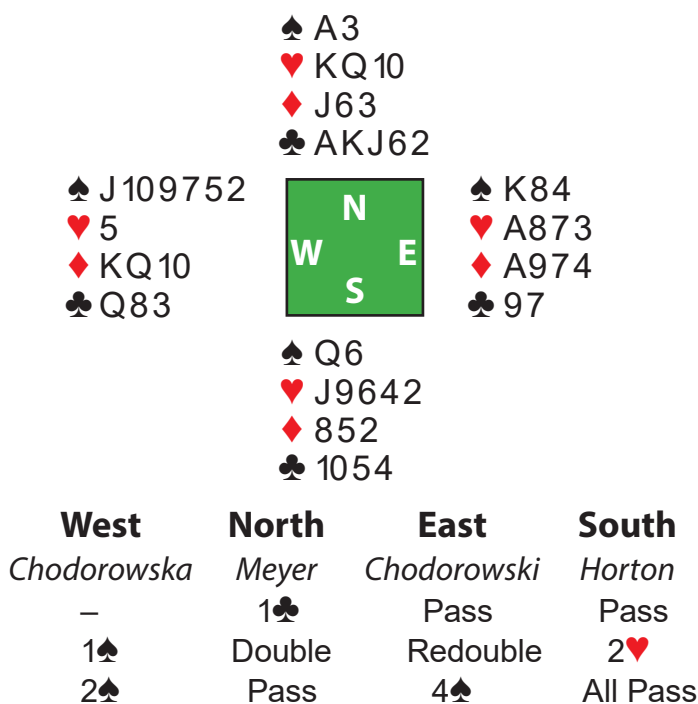
It was obvious at the table that the diamond finesses was wrong, so I went up with the ace, unblocked the hearts, came to hand with a club and continued with hearts. If West is looking at the ace of spades, king of diamonds and queen and jack of clubs he will not be able to survive when the last heart is cashed. Sadly this was the full deal:

Dealer North. East/West Vul



West was not under any pressure and the contract had to go one down. At the other table West led an uninspired diamond. Full marks to the late, great, John Armstrong for his brilliant lead.

Here is a deal for the textbooks:



When North led the ace of clubs South pretended to have a doubleton, playing the ten, followed by the five on the next round. There was some surprise when South followed to the third club, but after declarer had won and played the jack of spades, North went up with the ace and played a fourth club to promote the queen of spades.

Although we didn't qualify for the main final we won our group which ensured I could plunder the local wine shops the following day - just as I had done ten years before.

The Knock-Out Pairs

Mark Horton

It's a Knockout was a British comedy game show first broadcast in 1966. It was adapted from the French show *Intervilles*, and was part of the international *Jeux Sans Frontières* franchise. The games might best be described as school sports days for adults. To get the flavour check out this classic clip—the *penguin game* from Aix-Les-Bains, France in 1974: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_X8EhnwM9g

Here is a deal from the first day Wednesday:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9		
♥ 109		
♦ J9843		
♣ A9753		
♠ J864	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> </div>	♠ A7
♥ 652		♥ AQJ8
♦ AK72		♦ Q5
♣ 104		♣ KQJ86
		♠ KQ10532
		♥ K743
		♦ 106
		♣ 2

Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Rob Donkersloot</i>		<i>Pim Coppens</i>	
	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
	3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
	3♥*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♣	Puppet Stayman			
3♦	No five-card major			
3♥	Spades			

Knowing that West held four spades South led the three of hearts, but it proved to be costly. Declarer won with the queen and played a club to the ten and ace. North returned a heart and declarer won and cashed two top clubs, pitching spades from dummy. When South discarded he played the jack of hearts and South won and switched to the ten of diamonds. Declarer won in hand with the queen and cashed the eight of hearts to reach this position:

♠ —		
♥ —		
♦ J98		
♣ 97		
♠ J8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> </div>	♠ A7
♥ —		♥ —
♦ AK7		♦ 5
♣ —		♣ J8
		♠ KQ105
		♥ —
		♦ 6
		♣ —

When declarer cashed the ace of spades North had to surrender an eleventh trick. (Best to avoid discarding a diamond which would allow declarer to collect the last trick with the $\heartsuit 7$ —the beer card!

On Thursday the competitors contested the bridge version of the event—without the costumes!

I decided to follow the fortunes of Wilma den Broeder & Cobie Hendriksen, who were up against Nicolien van der Meer & Anneke Draaisma (who have only been playing bridge for a year!)

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	\spadesuit 94 \heartsuit 742 \diamondsuit A84 \clubsuit 106543		
\spadesuit QJ86 \heartsuit KJ853 \diamondsuit K \clubsuit A87	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit A1052 \heartsuit 10 \diamondsuit Q97532 \clubsuit KQ	
	\spadesuit K73 \heartsuit AQ96 \diamondsuit J106 \clubsuit J92		
West	North	East	South
<i>Wilma</i>	<i>Nicolian</i>	<i>Cobie</i>	<i>Ineke</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
$1\heartsuit$	Pass	$1\spadesuit$	Pass
$2\spadesuit$	Pass	$4\spadesuit$	All Pass

South led the two of clubs and declarer won in hand, unblocked the clubs and played a diamond for the king and ace. When North innocently played a third club declarer pitched her losing heart and ran the queen of spades to South's king. She could not be prevented from establishing the diamonds and had eleven tricks.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	\spadesuit K8 \heartsuit KQ75 \diamondsuit QJ972 \clubsuit J6		
\spadesuit Q1053 \heartsuit 10632 \diamondsuit 4 \clubsuit AQ83	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit AJ7 \heartsuit 84 \diamondsuit AK10865 \clubsuit K5	
	\spadesuit 9642 \heartsuit AJ9 \diamondsuit 3 \clubsuit 109742		
West	North	East	South
<i>Wilma</i>	<i>Nicolian</i>	<i>Cobie</i>	<i>Ineke</i>
Pass	$1\diamondsuit$	Double	Pass
$1\heartsuit$	Pass	$2NT$	Pass
$3NT$	All Pass		

Wilma would have liked to bid 2♦ to show her majors, but it was not part of the partnerships methods.

South led the nine of clubs for the three, jack and king. With considerable communication problems Cobie played the jack of spades and North won with the king returned the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the king, cashed the ace faced the problem of how to tackle the clubs. South had pitched a club on the second round of diamonds, so declarer decided to play them from the top and was held to eight tricks.

If you would like to understand why it is right to play low to the eight on the second round then take a look at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle_of_restricted_choice

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ K1075 ♥ KQJ76 ♦ 84 ♣ Q5		
♠ AQJ43 ♥ 1043 ♦ 105 ♣ K83	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 62 ♥ A9 ♦ KQJ972 ♣ A42	
	♠ 98 ♥ 852 ♦ A63 ♣ J10976		
West	North	East	South
<i>Wilma</i>	<i>Nicolian</i>	<i>Cobie</i>	<i>Ineke</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♦!	All Pass

In case you are wondering there are no typos – this is the real auction – which just goes to show that anything is possible when you are enjoying yourselves! South led the eight of hearts and declarer won with the ace and knocked out the ace of diamonds. She subsequently lost a trick to the king of spades, +130. It was close match, but it went in favour of Nicolian & Ineke.

With my intended viewing chair having been taken over by a discarded sweater I had to change my plans for the next round and by coincidence it involved Wilma & Cobie, this time against Joany Hubscher & Els Sloof. (If you want to try a quick movie buff teaser – in which film set in The Netherlands does the character Else Meertens appear?)

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ K653 ♥ Q10753 ♦ 94 ♣ A8		
♠ AQJ982 ♥ 4 ♦ QJ8 ♣ 1043	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 104 ♥ A2 ♦ A10753 ♣ Q972	
	♠ 7 ♥ KJ986 ♦ K62 ♣ KJ65		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Els</i>	<i>Wilma</i>	<i>Joany</i>	<i>Cobie</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♠	4♥	All Pass	

Had West overcalled 1♠ North might have bid 2♠ to show a good raise in hearts—but that might have resulted in N/S missing the heart game.

With the ace of diamonds outside declarer lost only to the three aces, +420.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

		♠ A 10 8 6	
		♥ J	
		♦ J 9 6	
		♣ A J 9 5 3	
♠ 5 4			♠ K J 2
♥ A 10 9 8 4 2			♥ K Q 7 6 5
♦ 10 7 2			♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 4			♣ 6 2
		♠ Q 9 7 3	
		♥ 3	
		♦ K 8 5 3	
		♣ K Q 8 7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Els</i>	<i>Wilma</i>	<i>Joany</i>	<i>Cobie</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	Double	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	5♥	All Pass

With 4♠ due to fail East's decision to bid on was expensive.

South led the king of clubs, continued with the queen and then switched to the three of spades. North took the ace and returned the six and declarer won with the king, crossed to dummy with a heart and played a diamond to the queen and king. South returned a diamond and when declarer played low from dummy the nine forced the ace, setting up North's jack for three down.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K9732		
♥ 82		
♦ 643		
♣ 1076		
♠ QJ54	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A10
♥ AK1095		♥ J
♦ AQ		♦ KJ9875
♣ 84		♣ A952
♠ 86		
♥ Q7643		
♦ 102		
♣ KQJ3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Els</i>	<i>Wilma</i>	<i>Joany</i>	<i>Cobie</i>
1NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

You do not need to be Einstein to appreciate that E/W had a misunderstanding.

I was sitting behind West and thought that the simple action (assuming 3♦ was natural and forcing) was to raise to 4♦. That might see East ask for key cards before settling for 6♦.

How to play it on a club lead?

One option is to duck the first round of clubs. If the defenders don't switch to a trump declarer might decide to ruff two clubs in dummy, hoping that the ten of diamonds will put in an early appearance when declarer gets around to drawing trumps.

If the defence switch to a trump, declarer can still ruff one club and rely on the spade finesse.

If you play in 6NT a club lead will force you to take both major suit finesses.

(The answer to my film poser - 'One of our Aircraft is Missing'.)

Knock-out Pairs Results

Pos	Name	%	Pos	Name	%
1	Gerrit Ros & Martin Holling	65,35	29	Arthur Hausani & Hans Metselaar	50,66
2	Jan-Willem v Diepen & Jos v den Dool	62,42	30	Iris van Dijk & Willem Gemen	50,31
3	Louis Huf & Hans Gütlich	61,77	31	Wil van Rooyen & Gerard van Santen	50,00
4	Chiel Beukers & Arend Jan Schoenmaker	61,42	32	Joany Hübscher & Els Sloof	49,61
5	Rob Donkersloot & Pim Coppens	60,03	33	Nanny Hammacher & Helene Hammerstein	49,42
6	Rob Langhout & Cobie Hendriksen	60,03	34	Leo Ploeger & Henk Schwarz	49,31
7	Tiny van der Harst & Ellen Tolhuisen	58,99	35	van Leeuwen & Jan Lindeboom	48,69
8	Ming Bong & Ingeborg Slikker	56,13	36	Christine Winckel & Mary Guillot	48,57
9	Ronald Oudshoorn & Frederike Roelven v der Giezen	56,13	37	H. Smekes & C. Schipper	48,26
10	Jan Janssen & Jenny Mioch	56,06	38	Mariemme v de Haar & Daniel v de Haar	48,26
11	Maxim Faber & Jamie Westlake	55,83	39	Steve Vukovic & Gerrit van Dijk	48,19
12	Erik v Noort & Aad v Nispen tot Sevenaer	55,36	40	Ab Bouts & Hanneke van Gelderen	47,45
13	René van Zweden & Willem Ritter	55,21	41	Johan Wagenaar & Trees Mol	45,87
14	Hans Post Uiterweer & Peter Versteegh	54,21	42	Elly van der Meer & Anneke Draaisma	45,79
15	Ed Zimmerman & Frank de Vos	53,90	43	Trix Dubbeld & Ad Dubbeld	45,37
16	Peter Vlas & Henk Beerman	53,70	44	Fathy Guediche & Louise van Leeuwen	43,90
17	Wilma Langenhuijzen & Rinus Cabri	53,67	45	Jos Straver & Oscar van Engh	43,63
18	Hans Happel & Vera Kool-Borggreven	53,16	46	Eduardo Fernandez & Ria Bartelomij	43,02
19	Loes Kuiper & Frans Bitter	52,93	47	Jaap de Wit & Marjon van Es	42,98
20	André Scheer & Martin Scheer	52,78	48	Suzan Coccoris & Ina van Duijne	42,44
21	Mieke Lansing & Peter Evers	52,55	49	Petra Noordermeer & Erna van Buuren	42,40
22	Ruth Murkes & R. van der Maas	52,51	50	Rob Bronsgeest & Joan van der Star	40,32
23	M. Keukeler & Arnoud van Veen	52,04	51	Sandra Kanner & Chananjah Kanner	39,70
24	Hans de Vreede & Joke Vreeswijk	51,89	52	Frans Lejeune & Marieke Lejeune	39,66
25	Leon Vis & Martin van der Starre	51,81	53	Maria Bellekom & Netty Lamaker	39,12
26	Sam Crommelin & Wouter van Seters	51,35	54	Wilma den Broeder & Cobie Hendriksen	36,88
27	Jan Korterink & Marnix Korterink	51,31	55	Josee Henkelman & Ninky Oijevaar	34,76
28	Nicoline van der Gaag & Ineke van Noort	50,81	56	Ingrid v der Laan & Nelly v der Draaij	26,66

Everyone had a lot of fun in Friday evenings contest involving the (so-called) amateurs and experts. These are the deals that caught my eye:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ 8653 ♥ K ♦ 86 ♣ AJ10972		
♠ AQ72 ♥ A632 ♦ A75 ♣ KQ	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J4 ♥ J974 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ 854	
	♠ K109 ♥ Q1085 ♦ 10932 ♣ 63		
West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The fate of 4♥ depends on how declarer tackles the trump suit. If the spade finesse is right a 3-2 break in hearts will see you home, so one line is to win the diamond lead in hand and play the jack of spades, for the king and ace. If declarer now plays a low heart North wins and will probably play two rounds of clubs. If declarer now makes the obvious play of the ace of hearts the contract will founder on the rocks of the 4-1 trump break.

As declarer is hoping hearts will be 3-2 it is not unreasonable to start the suit by cashing the ace. When North's king appears declarer as long as declarer treats it as a true card the contract can be made.

Say declarer continues with a club, North winning and returning the suit. Now it is possible to cash your side suit winners and ruff a spade. In the three card ending when you play a club, South, down to ♥Q108 will be forced to ruff and surrender a trick to the ♥J9.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q64 ♥ 954 ♦ AK763 ♣ QJ		
♠ J103 ♥ 1087 ♦ Q8 ♣ AK432	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK95 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ J94 ♣ 109	
	♠ 872 ♥ Q63 ♦ 1052 ♣ 8765		


West	North	East	South
–	–	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

This is a typical pairs hand where everyone will be in 3NT, with the matchpoints going to those who manage an overtrick. (Were South to find a diamond lead and North manage to duck then declarer would need to guess which major to rely on for even nine tricks.) Where South led a heart (not my first choice) declarer wins with the jack and ducks a club. North wins and is likely to try a top diamond, going back to hearts when South discourages. Declarer wins and plays a diamond, North taking that and playing a third heart. Declarer wins, cashes a heart and a diamond, unblocking the ♠J10 and tries two rounds of clubs.

Should declarer now take the spade finesse, risking the contract?

The answer is yes, mainly because of the opening lead. If South was looking at Qxx in both majors he might equally have led a spade.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ J10865		
	♥ AQJ		
	♦ 1082		
	♣ 75		
♠ AQ9		♠ —	
♥ 864		♥ 1072	
♦ Q5		♦ K9743	
♣ KJ1094		♣ AQ632	
	♠ K7432		
	♥ K953		
	♦ AJ6		
	♣ 8		
West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	5♣	5♠
Pass	Pass	5NT	All Pass

Having no idea how many clubs to bid on the first round East decided to go 'all in' anticipating that South might well try 5♠ and that partner would know what to do if she held some decent spades. When West could not double 5♠ it seemed reasonable to play for partner to have the miracle hand (just swap West's major suit holdings and 6♣ will be a spread) and East thought it would do no harm to show the diamonds along the way.

-300 did not trouble the scorers.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ AJ2					
	♥ 2					
	♦ 64					
	♣ KQ75432					
♠ K3	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10964	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ QJ94		♥ A1086				
♦ 8532		♦ Q1097				
♣ J106		♣ A				
	♠ Q875					
	♥ K753					
	♦ AKJ					
	♣ 98					

At most tables N/S reached 3NT, but only one declarer was successful. West led the queen of hearts and when East encouraged with a the eight a heart to the ace was followed by a third heart, South winning with the king.

Now declarer found the play of ducking a club to the singleton ace!

His reasoning was that if hearts were 5-3 he could afford to lose two clubs as long as East West did not gain the lead.

It's a not unreasonable line to follow, although I'm not sure what declarer had discarded from dummy on the second and third round of hearts.

Board 19. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ —					
	♥ J109542					
	♦ AJ952					
	♣ Q6					
♠ Q10865	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K9743	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ A		♥ KQ76				
♦ 7		♦ Q3				
♣ J109854		♣ AK				
	♠ AJ2					
	♥ 83					
	♦ K10864					
	♣ 732					

	West	North	East	South
	—	2♦*	2NT	Pass
	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
2♦	Multi			

North led the jack of hearts and declarer won with the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs and pitched a diamond on a heart. What now?

Seeing no danger declarer played a spade to the queen and had to lose two tricks (still worth 73%). The best line is to ruff a diamond at trick four and then play a spade towards the king. The point is that if North has the singleton ace South will have ♠J2. If declarer plays a spade to the king and it loses to the ace South will score a trick with the jack when North plays a third heart.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ 83 ♥ J8765 ♦ 3 ♣ Q9874		
♠ Q1097 ♥ Q2 ♦ J42 ♣ K632	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AJ52 ♥ A94 ♦ Q10875 ♣ A	
	♠ K64 ♥ K103 ♦ AK96 ♣ J105		
West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

North led the three of diamonds and South played three rounds of the suit, North ruffing and switching to a heart. Declarer played low from dummy and South won and had to score a trick with the king of spades.

Declarer missed a shot—win the heart switch with dummy’s ace, cash the ace of spades and then pitch a heart on the queen of diamonds.

Not quite the end of the story, as when Declarer followed to trick one with the two of diamonds South should have returned a low diamond for North to ruff, keeping control of the suit. Then the heart switch will set up a fifth trick for the defence.

Pro-Am Final Standings

Pos	Name	%
1	Ton Bakkeren & Yordi Schouten	62,15
2	Maarten Schollaardt & Bastiaan Korner	59,63
3	Danny Molenaar & Rini van Oosterhout	59,40
4	Just van der Kam & Hanneke Kreijns	57,68
5	Tim Verbeek & Allie Hoenstok	56,04
6	Berry Westra & Enri Leufkens	55,31
7	Hans Kreuning & Sahar Ouda	54,86
8	Jeroen van de Pol & Pierre Speiser	54,76
9	Kees Scherders & Marcel Mol	54,15
10	Miguel Teixeira & Ronald Halkes	54,07
11	Gerbrand Hop & Hans Gutlich	53,96
12	Rob Wijman & Michiel Boudewijn	52,82
13	Pedro Pratas & Reinaldo Timoteo	52,65
14	Mark Horton & Christine Winckel	52,29
15	Rene Hermans & Rob van Leeuwen	51,15
16	Jan van Cleeff & Bob Drake	49,13
17	Anders Hagen & Louis Huf	48,93
18	Chris Westerbeek & Robbie de Koster	48,51
19	Jamilla Spangenberg & Annemieke Poort	47,54
20	Jacco Hop & Onno Janssens	47,47
21	Joris van Lankveld & Sharon Bong	47,46
22	Frank Bakkeren & Rietje Malestein	47,18
23	Hans Metselaar & Arthur Hausani	46,81
24	Carlos Luiz & Loes Janssen	46,29
25	Marcel Winkel & Jac van Oosterhout	45,93
26	Roefi Vilier & Mimi Blom	45,24
27	Lotte Leufkens & Oda Leufkens	45,10
28	Mads Eyde & Ming Bong	43,01
28	Berend van der Bos & Ingeborg Slikker	43,01
30	Wubbo de Boer & Gerard IJsebrands	41,35
31	Mark Thiele & Hans Blom	39,76
32	Agnes Snellers & Ton Grootens	36,76