

The Cavendish

Invitational

Editor: Donna Compton

Articles Editor: Phillip Alder

Zimmermann Team

Wins John Roberts Teams

The John Roberts Teams was won very impressively by Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Michel and Thomas Bessis, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness.

Only 9 victory points ahead with three rounds to play, they won each of those matches by a blitz, 30-0 in victory points. In rounds seven and eight, they did not concede even one imp.

Second, after a close tussle in the ninth and final round, were Kevin Bathurst, Daniel Zagorin, Bart Bramley and Nikolay Demirev. Third, 3 victory points behind, were John Diamond, Brian Platnick, Zia Mahmood and Jeff Meckstroth.

Also in the money were Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller and Simon De Wijs.

2010 John Roberts Teams Final Standings

1.	\$38,130	222	Zimmermann - Multon - Michel Bessis - Thomas Bessis - Helgemo - Helness
2.	\$28,000	157	Bathurst - Zagorin - Demirev - Bramley
3.	\$19,770	154	Diamond - Platnick - Mahmood - Meckstroth
4.	\$10,500	147	'T Onstein, Brink - Drijver - De Wijs - Muller
5.		143	Zaleski - Chemla - Compton - Hamman
6.		138	De Knijff - Wrang - Fallenius - Fredin
7.		137	Welland - Willenken - Henner-Welland - Rosenberg - Piekarek - Smirnov
8.		136	Mahaffey - Passell - Lev - Pszczola - Zhao - Zhong
9.	\$10,000	133	Faigenbaum - Pilon - Bompis - Quantin
10.		129	Deutsch - Kranyak - Cohen - Smith - Cheek - Grue
11.		121	O'Rourke - Jacobus - Hampson - Greco - Levin - Weinstein
12.		114	Manuel Capucho - Maria Capucho - Bertens - Mohan - Cohler - Woolsey
13.		84	Finkel - Kastle - Casen - Krekorian - Ekeblad - Jansma
14.		75	Blanchard - Blanchard - Rogoff - Verhees

CIP Auction Pool Hits \$853,500

The dinner and auction last night were excellent. A great spread kept even the pickiest of appetites happy, and George Jacobs did a wonderful job at generating a sizeable auction pool of \$853,500.

The top-seeded pair are — surprising everyone! — the defending champions, Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein. They were sold for \$62,000. The number-two seeds are Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, who went for \$49,000. The only other pair to go for more than \$40,000 was Eric Greco and Geoff Hampson at \$42,000. But those sums do not mean anything — play well and be lucky and you will do well, whoever you are!

2010 Cavendish Invitational Auction

#	Pair		Bid	Purchased By
1	Curtis Cheek	Joe Grue	29,000	Compton
2	Sjoert Brink	Bas Drijver	32,000	Melchers
3	Steve Sanborn	Kerrie Sanborn	House	Not for Auction
4	Jack Zhao	Fu Zhong	23,000	Diamond
5	Eric Greco	Geoff Hampson	42,000	Zimmermann
6	Mark Lair	Roger Lord	12,500	Themselves
7	Seymon Deutsch	John Kranyak	12,500	Themselves
8	Franck Multon	Pierre Zimmermann	12,500	Themselves
9	Hamish Bennett	Billy Miller	12,500	Themselves
10	Ashley Bach	Michael Cornell	12,500	Themselves
11	Bart Bramley	Nikolay Demirev	13,000	Rogoff
12	Paul Chemla	Romain Zaleski	12,500	Themselves
13	Robert Blanchard	Shane Blanchard	12,500	Themselves
14	Martin DeKnijff	Frederic Wrang	14,500	Zimmermann
15	Billy Cohen	Ron Smith	18,000	Diamond
16	Josef Piekarek	Alex Smirnov	23,000	Zimmermann
17	Hemant Lall	Justin Lall	12,500	Themselves
18	Steve Beatty	George Jacobs	12,500	Themselves
19	Manuel Capucho	Maria Capucho	12,500	Themselves
20	Chris Compton	Bob Hamman	14,000	Mahaffey
21	Chip Martel	Kit Woolsey	13,000	Diamond
22	Gunnar Andersson	Marten Gustavsson	12,500	Themselves
23	Bruce Rogoff	Louk Verhees	12,500	Themselves
24	Russ Ekeblad	Jan Jansma	12,500	Themselves
25	Bjorn Fallenius	Peter Fredin	28,000	Welland
26	Michael Elinescu	Entscho Wladow	13,000	Zimmermann
27	Christal Henner-Welland	Michael Rosenberg	12,500	Themselves
28	Gary Cohler	Eric Robinson	12,500	Themselves
29	Boye Brogeland	Artur Malinowski	25,000	Zimmermann
30	Sam Lev	Jacek Pszczola	35,000	Zimmermann
31	Nicolas L'Ecuyer	Jim Krekorian	13,000	Rosenthal
32	Steve Garner	Zia Mahmood	24,000	Zimmermann
33	Albert Faigenbaum	Dominique Pilon	12,500	Themselves
34	Glenn Grotheim	Ulf Tundal	24,000	Elinescu
35	Robert Levin	Steve Weinstein	62,000	Diamond
36	Michel Bessis	Thomas Bessis	23,000	Platnick
37	Huub Bertens	John Mohan	14,500	Zimmermann
38	John Diamond	Brian Platnick	12,500	Themselves
42	Perry Johnson	Jeff Meckstroth	13,000	Zimmermann
43	Ahmed Hussein	Eric Rodwell	12,500	Themselves
44	Michael Kamil	Michael Moss	13,000	Zimmermann
45	Simon DeWijs	Bauke Muller	25,000	Diamond
46	Geir Helgemo	Tor Helness	49,000	Mahaffey
48	Roy Welland	Chris Willenken	17,000	Rogoff
49	Marc Bompis	Jean-Christophe Quantin	12,500	Themselves
50	Drew Casen	Mike Passell	16,000	Goren

2010 John Roberts Teams Champions



Geir Helgemo, Thomas Bessis, Franck Multon, Pierre Zimmermann, Michel Bessis, Tor Helness

Past Cavendish Invitational Pairs Winners

2009	Steve Weinstein - Bobby Levin	1991	Johan Bennet – Anders Wirgren
2008	Eric Rodwell - Geoff Hampson	1990	Piotr Gawrys – Elyakim Shoufel
2007	Steve Weinstein - Bobby Levin	1989	Marty Bergen – Larry Cohen
2006	Ton Bakkeren – Huub Bertens	1988	Bjorn Fallenius – Magnus Lindkvist
2005	Andrea Buratti – Massimo Lanza	1987	Drew Casen – Jim Krekorian
2004	Sam Lev – Jacek Pszczola	1986	Matt Granovetter – Michael Rosenberg
2003	Fred Gitelman – Brad Moss	1985	Irving Litvack – Joseph Silver
2002	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	1984	Marty Bergen – Larry Cohen
2001	Michal Kwiecien – Jacek Pszczola	1983	Robert Lipsitz – Neil Silverman
2000	Marty Fleisher – Eric Rodwell	1982	Ed Manfield – Kit Woolsey
1999	Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein	1981	James Cayne – Fred Hamilton
1998	Bob Hamman – Nick Nickell	1980	Lou Bluhm – Thomas Sanders
1997	Michael Seamon – Harry Tudor	1979	Roger Bates – Daniel Mordecai
1996	Fred Stewart – Steve Weinstein	1978	Roy Fox – Paul Swanson
1995	Paul Soloway – Harry Tudor	1977	Alan Sontag – Peter Weichsel
1994	Neil Silverman – Kit Woolsey	1976	Alan Sontag – Peter Weichsel
1993	Fred Stewart – Steve Weinstein	1975	James Jacoby – Gerald Westheimer
1992	Amos Kaminski – Sam Lev		

2010 World Bridge Production Pairs

1. Mike Cappelletti, Jr. - Jim Mahaffey
2. Marc Jacobus - Lou Ann O'Rourke
3. Cunningham - Frank Treiber
4. Michael McNamara - Sylvia McNamara
5. Barry Schaffer - Colby Vernay
6. Kerri Sanborn - Steve Sanborn
7. Maggie Mohan - Miriam Rosenberg
8. Andrew Rosenthal - Aaron Silverman
9. Ross Taylor - David Colbert
10. Leo Bell - John Jones
11. Josh Donn - Jason Feldman
12. Howard Parker - David Siebert
13. Reese Milner - TBA
14. Fred Hamilton - TBA
15. Gaylor Kasle - TBA
16. Bob Soni - Robert Todd
17. Marshall Miles - William Wickham
18. This space intentionally left blank

**Entries subject to change. New entries
accepted until 8pm Friday Evening.**

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Thank you Fred & Sheri!

Smoking Policy

There is no smoking in the hotel. Smoking is allowed in the
Casino area and outside.

No Electronic Devices in the Playing Area

Absolutely no electronic devices capable of sending or receiving signals (other than hearing aids) may be brought into the playing rooms under any circumstances. This applies to kibitzers as well as players. You may leave your electronic devices at the check-in table; however, WBP will not be held responsible for lost items.

Appeals Announcement

Appeals of tournament directors' rulings (in all events) will be handled in the following manner. Any director's ruling will be reconsidered (at the request of either side) by filing a timely request for reconsideration with the Director in Charge. Said request for reconsideration shall be in writing and must set forth in sufficient detail the reason(s) why the filing party believes that the ruling was incorrect.

Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration the tournament directing staff, along with whomever else the staff wishes to consult, will reconsider the ruling and render a decision. The directors may request a hearing when there are facts in dispute, but are not required to do so.

John Roberts Teams Final Session

by Phillip Alder

Just before we get to the last three rounds, some older matters to cover.

As I expected, at least one other pair reached the six-heart contract described on page 9 of yesterday's bulletin. Kevin Bathurst and Daniel Zagorin got there in a similar fashion to Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness.

The auction on Board 14 in the second round did not exactly as given on page 7; it went like this:

West	North	East	South
Multon	Finkel	Zimmermann	Kasle
		Pass	Pass
1♦	2♥	Dble	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Peter Fredin played this deal nicely in Round 6.

Board 19		North	
Dlr: South		♠ 2	
Vul: E-W		♥ A Q 4	
		♦ A Q 9	
		♣ Q J 9 7 6 4	
West		East	
♠ A 7		♠ J 10 5 4 3	
♥ 10 8 7		♥ K 3	
♦ J 10 8 5 4 2		♦ 7 6 3	
♣ A K		♣ 10 8 2	
	South		
	♠ K Q 9 8 6		
	♥ J 9 6 5 2		
	♦ K		
	♣ 5 3		
West	North	East	South
	Fredin		Fallenius
			Pass
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led a diamond to dummy's king.

Some declarers immediately attacked clubs, but that met with a deserved fate. North could establish only eight tricks (one heart, three diamonds and four clubs) before West had his diamonds ready to run, with the spade ace as an entry.

At trick two, Fredin played a heart to his queen. However, this lost to East's king and a diamond came back. Now Fredin led his low spade and East fell from grace, failing to split his honors. When East played low, Fredin called for dummy's nine and had nine tricks: two spades, four hearts and three diamonds.

Who told me about this deal? East.

Now to Round 7. Before it began, Zimmermann led by 9 victory points from Bathurst. So these two were in opposition.

Zimmermann gained 5 international match points on the first deal when Bart Bramley-Nikolay Demirev went down one in four spades doubled, and Kevin Bathurst-Daniel Zagorin were also down one in five hearts doubled.

This was the second deal:

Board 2		North	
Dlr: East		♠ 4	
Vul: N-S		♥ 3	
		♦ A Q 7 5 4	
		♣ K Q J 8 6 2	
West		East	
♠ J 7 6		♠ K Q	
♥ Q J 5 2		♥ A K 9 7 6 4	
♦ 10 9 8 3 2		♦ K	
♣ 5		♣ A 7 4 3	
	South		
	♠ A 10 9 8 5 3 2		
	♥ 10 8		
	♦ J 6		
	♣ 10 9		
West	North	East	South
Demirev	Helness	Bramley	Helgemo
		1♥	2♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Bessis T.	Zagorin	Bessis	Bathurst
		2♥ (a)	2♠
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass

(a) An Acol two-bid, showing a strong hand with a long suit and eight (or nine) playing tricks

No doubt swayed by the unfavorable vulnerability, Helness passed over four hearts.

After Helgemo led the club ten, Bramley took two spades, six hearts, one club and two club ruffs for an overtrick.

In the other room, Zagorin went with his six-card suit. Double-dummy, East must lead his singleton diamond king, then, when in with the club ace, underlead in hearts to get a diamond ruff for down three. Understandably, though, East led the heart ace and continued with a second heart. Now declarer, also not playing double-dummy, led a low diamond from his hand. East won and shifted to the spade king. North won with dummy's ace, led the club nine, which held, and tried to cash the diamond jack. But East ruffed and now the contract was down three.

Minus 450 and plus 800 gave Zimmermann 8imps.

The next board was flat; then Zimmermann gained another 8imps, beating two spades by two tricks in one room and making one spade doubled in the other.

Next came:

Board 5	North		East	
Dir: North	♠ K Q J 5 3		♠ A 10 7	
Vul: N-S	♥ Q 9 7 2		♥ K 6 5	
	♦ K 5		♦ A 9 8 6 4 3	
	♣ 5 2		♣ Q	
	South		South	
	♠ 8 6		♠ —	
	♥ A 8 4		♥ A 8 4	
	♦ Q 10		♦ —	
	♣ A K 9 8 7 4		♣ 9 8 7	
West	North	East	South	
Demirev	Helness	Bramley	Helgemo	
	1♠	2♦	3♣	
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Bessis T.	Zagorin	Bessis M.	Bathurst
	1♠	2♦	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Against three notrump, Michel Bessis led the diamond three. Declarer won with dummy's queen and played a spade to his king. East won with the ace and cashed the diamond ace, under which Thomas Bessis carefully unblocked his jack. East ran the rest of his diamonds for down two.

Against four spades, Bramley led his singleton club: ace, three, five. Declarer played a spade to his queen. East won with his ace, cashed the diamond ace and played another diamond, won with dummy's queen. Helness drew trumps and played a club to dummy's king to reach this position:

	North		East
	♠ 5 3		♠ —
	♥ Q 9 7 2		♥ K 6 5
	♦ —		♦ 9 8 6
	♣ —		♣ —
West		South	
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ J 10 3		♥ A 8 4	
♦ J		♦ —	
♣ J 10		♣ 9 8 7	

Now declarer called for the heart eight and West failed to split his honors. Helness ran the eight and was home when East had to win with the king and the suit split 3-3.

Plus 200 and plus 620 gave Zimmermann 13imps and the lead by 34. The same team gained two overtrickimps over the last four boards to win the match by 36imps, a 30-0 blitz in vps.

With two rounds to play, Zimmermann led the Diamond team by 32 vps — more than one match.

Those two teams faced each other in Round 8.

WBP Breakfast & Auction

Breakfast at 9:00am and Auction at 9:30am
La Sirena (Grand Ballroom Level)

Board 10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠Q 9 4 3
 ♥10 7 4
 ♦A J 8
 ♣Q 9 3

West
 ♠A K 2
 ♥K J 8 6
 ♦K 5
 ♣A J 10 6

East
 ♠8 6
 ♥A 5 2
 ♦6 4 3
 ♣8 7 5 4 2

South
 ♠J 10 7 5
 ♥Q 9 3
 ♦Q 10 9 7 2
 ♣K

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Helness	Platnick	Helgemo
1♣ (a)	Pass	1♦ (b)	Pass
INT (c)	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) Strong, artificial
- (b) Weak, artificial
- (c) 18-19 balanced

West	North	East	South
Bessis T.	Meckstroth	Bessis	Zia
2NT (a)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(a) 20-21 points

The two Wests had the same hand but counted it differently!

Against one notrump, Helness led the spade four, third-highest from an even number or lowest from an odd number.

John Diamond won with his king, cashed the club ace, and continued with the club jack, South discarding a spade. North won the next club and played a second spade. West won and took his eight top tricks: two spades, two hearts and four clubs.

There was more at stake in the other room.

Jeff Meckstroth led a fourth-highest spade three. The play began as at the other table, South discarding two spades on the clubs. When North took the third club, he returned a spade. Now declarer could win with his ace and exit with a spade to guarantee his contract. North, after taking this trick and his last spade, probably saved the overtrick by cashing his diamond ace.

West took two spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs.

Minus 120 and plus 600 gave Zimmermann 10 imps.

Two flat boards followed; then:

Board 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠Q 7 5 4 2
 ♥4
 ♦A K Q 4 3
 ♣J 7

West
 ♠A 9
 ♥A K Q 9 7
 ♦J 9 7 5
 ♣4 2

East
 ♠J 10 8 6
 ♥J 6
 ♦6
 ♣A K Q 9 8 6

South
 ♠K 3
 ♥10 8 5 3 2
 ♦10 8 2
 ♣10 5 3

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Helness	Platnick	Helgemo
2♥	1♠	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Bessis T.	Meckstroth	Bessis	Zia
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♥	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Obviously, if two hearts is nonforcing, Diamond should have cue-bid two spades, not promising club support. (This is why I like to play West's advance as forcing for one round. Then a cue-bid almost guarantees support for partner's suit.)

Two hearts made four, declarer losing two diamonds and one heart. (It could have been three diamonds and one heart.)

At the other table, Meckstroth rebid three diamonds. This persuaded Zia to double three notrump. But the contract was unbeatable and made with two overtricks.

Minus 170 and plus 1150 gave Zimmermann 14 imps. (If Zia had not doubled, Zimmerman would have still gained 10 imps.)

Zimmermann scored another imp, then came:

Board 15
 Dir: South
 Vul: N-S

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

There were two flat boards, then came the final deal:

Board 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N-S

North ♠ A 8 7 4 3 ♥ K Q 8 7 3 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ —	East ♠ K 9 6 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 5 3 2 ♣ 8 6 5 4 2
West ♠ J 10 ♥ A 6 4 2 ♦ K J 10 6 ♣ A K 10	South ♠ Q 5 2 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ A 7 ♣ Q J 9 7 3

West Diamond 1♦ Pass	North Helness 1♠ 5♣	East Platnick 4♦ All Pass	South Helgemo 1♣ Dble
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West Bessis T. 1♥ Pass	North Meckstroth Dble 3NT	East Bessis Pass All Pass	South Zia 1♣ 2NT
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Zia's two-notrump rebid did not work well. West led the diamond king, then shifted to the spade five. South took that and played a club, but East won and led the diamond ten: down two.

At the other table, Diamond overcalled one diamond, not one heart. (Perhaps two notrump is the way to go, getting both suits immediately into the auction.) Five clubs could have been beaten with a heart lead, but why would West have found that?

West started the defense with two top diamonds. Helgemo ruffed, drove out the club ace, and claimed.

Plus 200 and plus 600 was a further 13 imps to Zimmermann, now ahead by 28-0.

West Diamond INT 3♦	North Helness 2♣ (a) 3♠	East Platnick Pass 2♥ (b) All Pass	South Helgemo Pass 2♠
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- (a) Majors
- (b) Both minors, competitive, no interest in game

Against three spades, Diamond led the club ace. Helgemo ruffed in the dummy and called for the heart king. West took his ace and shifted to the diamond six. Declarer ducked this trick, won the diamond continuation, played a trump to dummy's ace, ruffed the diamond nine in his hand, and led the spade queen. East had two trump tricks, but South had lost only two spades, one heart and one diamond.

At the other table, Meckstroth and Zia had their first misunderstanding of the event. They ended in four hearts doubled by North. The play wasn't pretty either, North playing West to have king-doubleton of spades and going down three.

Plus 140 and plus 800 was another 14 imps to Zimmermann.

Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Michel and Thomas Bessis, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness had won a second straight shutout blitz, claiming first prize with one round to be played.

Pen Only - No Pencils Allowed

All written commentary on bidding or carding at the table shall be made in pen only.

The battle remained for second, third and fourth. Bathurst was second and faced fourth-placed Diamond. Zimmermann played the highest-placed team it had not met in this session, De Knijff, who was third.

Zimmermann won a third blitz (although they did concede 10 imps!), leaving Bathurst and Diamond battling for second. For Bathurst to remain second, that team could afford to lose by at most 18 imps.

Diamond gained six imps on the first board and the second was flat. This was the third:

Board 21	North	♠ 7 3	East
Dlr: North	♥ 10 9 4 2	♠ Q J 6 5	♥ A K J 7
Vul: N-S	♦ A Q 7	♦ J 10 8 3	♦ J 10 8 3
	♣ Q 9 5 3	♣ 4	
	West	South	
	♠ A 10 4 2	♠ —	
	♥ 8 5 3	♥ —	
	♦ 6 2	♦ 9 5	
	♣ J 8 7 2	♣ A 10	

Both Easts, Platnick and Bramley, opened one diamond. Bathurst passed with the South hand, then stayed out of the auction while his opponents stopped in two spades.

The play was interesting. Zagorin (North) found the best lead of a trump, covered by the queen, king and ace. Diamond played a diamond to the jack and king, and back came a spade. Declarer won with dummy's jack and called for the club four. South won with his king to lead his last trump.



Brian Platnick

West won with his ten and played a heart to dummy's jack. South took his queen and returned a low diamond, North winning with his queen and shifting to a low club. Declarer ruffed in the dummy and cashed the heart ace to give this position:

North	West	East
♠ —	♠ 4	♠ —
♥ 10 9	♥ 8	♥ K 7
♦ A	♦ —	♦ 10 8
♣ Q	♣ J 8	♣ —
	South	
	♠ —	
	♥ —	
	♦ 9 5	
	♣ A 10	

Now West should have ruffed the diamond eight, giving himself two chances: the diamond ace falling or hearts 3-3. But declarer called for the heart king and went down one.

In the other room, Zia overcalled one notrump. He and Meckstroth then pushed into three notrump, which was doubled by Demirev (West). This went down three.

Minus 50 and plus 800 gave Bathurst 13 valuable imps.



John Diamond

On the next deal, Diamond found a good double of three notrump to gain 6 imps. Then, with both sides vulnerable, you, North, pick up:

♠ K Q 6 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ Q J 9 5 4 2

The bidding starts like this:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2NT (a)	4♥	4♠
5♥	??		

(a) Four-plus spades, game-forcing

Maybe you would have done something else with your hand on the first round, but it is too late to worry about that. What would you do now?

I will give the full deal in a moment. First, on the board that followed that one, with neither side vulnerable, Bathurst went down two in three spades doubled.

In the other room, Demirev went down in a four-heart contract that he could have made, giving Diamond 8 imps.

Now back to the previous bidding problem. South's four-spade rebid ought to show no wasted values in hearts. Thus North's heart void is terrific and he should jump to six spades.

Meckstroth saw it that way, but Zagorin settled for five spades.



Jeff Meckstroth

This was the full layout:

Board 23
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 10 7 5 3 2
 ♣ K 7 6

North
 ♠ K Q 6 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ Q J 9 5 4 2

East
 ♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ A K J 10 6 5 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 10 8

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

Six spades could not be defeated, declarer losing only one club trick.

This gave Diamond 13 imps, and with two boards to play that team led by 21 imps. The final board was flat, so the money was decided on the penultimate deal:

Board 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

West
 ♠ A K
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ A Q 9 8 2
 ♣ 6 5 3 2

North
 ♠ J 7 4
 ♥ A K J 6 4 3
 ♦ K 10 5
 ♣ 4

East
 ♠ Q 8 6 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 9 8

South
 ♠ 10 9 5 3
 ♥ 9 8 7 5
 ♦ J 7 3
 ♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Zagorin	Platnick	Bathurst
		Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Demirev	Meckstroth	Bramley	Zia
		Pass	Pass
INT	2♥	2NT (a)	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Transfer to clubs

The auction sort of went well for Platnick when Zagorin opted not to enter the auction. East-West avoided the no-play three notrump, but had only 10 tricks in clubs when the diamond finesse lost.

In the other room, Meckstroth overcalled, of course. But then Bramley and Demirev did well to stop in four clubs.

Plus 100 and plus 130 gave Kevin Bathurst, Daniel Zagorin, Bart Bramley and Nikolay Demirev 6 imps, just enough to secure second place. John Diamond, Brian Platnick, Jeff Meckstroth and Zia Mahmood were third, 7 vps ahead of the 't Onstein Dutch team of Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller and Simon De Wijs.



Zia

My Casting Vote

by Sam Leckie, Scotland

Do you realize that as I write this article on Thursday afternoon, two momentous events will be happening later today? First, back home in Great Britain, the General Election is taking place, and second, here this evening the Cavendish Auction will be held. Call me foolish but I'm prepared to stick out my big fat neck with a dual forecast.

In the election, I predict that no party will have an overall majority, and in the Cavendish, despite attracting one of the highest bids, Levin-Weinstein will not win. How can I be so sure that those three time winners (and one of my two picks last year) have no chance?

Let me take you back three weeks when I first landed in Vegas to play in a World Series of Poker Tournament with my "sure fire" system. It was so simple, only play with premium hands and most times go into confrontations as probably favorite. The Law of Averages suggests you will win more times than you will lose – absolute balderdash! Suddenly, "Little Lady Luck" takes a hand and as quick as you can say "All In" you are thanking your opponents for a very nice game and heading for the nearest exit. If you don't believe me, ask Levin or Weinstein – both keen poker players. Now why should my poker experience affect their Cavendish chances? To win this event, not only do you have to be a brilliant pair, in top form, but have "Lady Luck" on your side too. This means that you have to collect imps from your opponents over whom you have no control. You

need your opponents to make stupid mistakes against you or you must not be on the receiving end of one of their brilliances.

I am quite certain that in the past few years, Levin-Weinstein have had more than their share of that kind of luck and this surely cannot happen again this year.

I have no doubt that this year's winner will be a top class partnership. Tomorrow I'll name two pairs who could do it, given the breaks of course.

Before I arrived in Vegas, Zia was not coming since his name did not appear on the website list. I am delighted to see he is a starter and playing with Steve Garner, a charming man I've known for many years. Indeed, I attended the one and only big money tournament held in London some years ago, when he and Howard Weinstein walked away with the top prize. It intrigued me how this latest partnership came about, so I asked Zia,

"I wasn't coming at all. Then I heard Steve was looking for a partner, and we decided to team up." Then he added, "We have never played together before." That last remark got me thinking, and the more I thought, the less I liked the pairing. Steve is a brilliant straight-down-the-middle player. Such a match-up can only end in tears and heartache. In my view, if they finish on speaking terms, they will have done well. It doesn't happen to me very often, but on this occasion I hope I've got it totally wrong. But I doubt it.

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 7, 2010

10:30am	CIP 1 st Session	Estancia Ballroom	(27 boards)
4:00pm	CIP 2 nd Session	Estancia Ballroom	(27 boards)

Saturday, May 8, 2010

9:00am	Breakfast	La Sirena (Grand Ballroom Level)	
9:30am	Auction, WBP Pairs		
10:30am	CIP 3 rd Session	Estancia Ballroom	(27 Boards)
	WBP Pairs 1 st Session	La Cascada	
4:00pm	CIP 3 rd Session	Estancia Ballroom	(27 boards)
	WBP Pairs 2 nd Session	La Cascada	

Sunday, May 9, 2010

10:30am	Final Session CIP	Estancia Ballroom	
TBA on SAT	Final Session WBP Pairs	La Cascada	
3:00pm	Closing Party	Lobby Bar & Terrace	

2009 Cavendish Invitational Pairs



2009 CIP Champs
Steve Weinstein & Bobby Levin

1.	4783.59	Robert Levin - Steve Weinstein
2.	2337.00	Geoff Hampson - Eric Rodwell
3.	1946.41	Roy Welland - Chris Willenken
4.	1942.87	Sam Lev - JacekPszczola
5.	1745.54	Josef Piekarek - Alex Smirnov
6.	1656.59	Curtis Cheek - Joe Grue
7.	1640.50	Fred Gitelman - Brad Moss
8.	1490.54	Geir Helgemo - Tor Helness
9.	1187.46	Michel Bessis - Thomas Bessis
10.	911.37	Gunnar Hallberg - Michael Moss

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