

The Cavendish Invitational

Editor: Donna Compton

Articles Editor: Phillip Alder

Levin-Weinstein Strong in Day 2

It seems that the winners of the Cavendish Invitational Pairs will be Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein. With 27 boards to play, they lead Curtis Cheek and Joe Grue by 2,497 international match points. Even dividing by 23, the number of comparisons on each board, that still leaves them just over 108imps to the good. We have seen some amazing reversals of fortune in bridge, but...

If they do hold on, the fight for the other places will be fierce. Only 216.59imps cover the next three places. And with plus 800imps or more in a session not being uncommon, someone further back could make a run up the rankings.

In the WBP Pairs, Leo Bell and John Jones enjoy a thin lead of 28imps over Barry Schaffer and Colby Vernay. Third, another 166imps adrift, are Thomas Carmichael and Joel Wooldridge, the defending champions. Watch for them to make a move during the final session this morning.

1 4622.59	1 Robert Levin - Steve Weinstein	25 -41.09	4 Martin Fleisher - Chip Martel
2 2125.59	20 Curtis Cheek - Joe Grue	26 -58.91	7 Marc Bompis - Jean-Christophe Quantin
3 2029.50	14 Fred Gitelman - Brad Moss	27 -63.91	9 Albert Faigenbaum - Dominique Pilon
4 1909.00	45 Geoff Hampson - Eric Rodwell	28 -161.59	22 Robert Blanchard - Shane Blanchard
5 1756.54	46 Geir Helgemo - Tor Helness	29 -282.00	31 Giorgio Duboin - Guido Ferraro
6 1564.41	2 Roy Welland - Chris Willenken	30 -373.13	5 Jill Levin - Jill Meyers
7 1196.63	37 Bjorn Fallenius - Peter Fredin	31 -375.50	27 David Berkowitz - William Pollack
8 1093.54	8 Josef Piekarek - Alex Smirnov	32 -391.82	34 Perry Johnson - Jeff Meckstroth
9 1093.50	44 Gary Cohler - Michael Seamon	33 -406.91	38 Peter Bertheau - Fredrik Nystrom
10 1006.87	19 Sam Lev - Jacek Pszczola	34 -773.82	26 Seymon Deutsch - John Kranyak
11 898.46	13 Michel Bessis - Thomas Bessis	35 -1035.82	12 Zia Mahmood - Charles Wigoder
12 892.50	24 Kevin Bathurst - Justin Lall	36 -1120.77	15 Paul Chemla - Romain Zaleski
13 888.82	36 George Jacobs - Ralph Katz	37 -1136.46	35 Brian Glubok - Harry Tudor
14 803.50	43 Bart Bramley - Mike Passell	38 -1171.73	29 Boye Brogeland - Odin Svendsen
15 738.50	6 Connie Goldberg - Bill Eisenberg	39 -1176.05	32 Ton Bakkeren - Huub Bertens
16 661.46	3 Drew Casen - Jim Krekorian	40 -1234.59	39 John Diamond - Eric Greco
17 543.23	42 Fred Stewart - Kit Woolsey	41 -1242.27	23 Bruce Rogoff - Louk Verhees
18 514.36	25 Zhong Fu - Jie Zhao	42 -1450.46	28 Jason Feldman - Daniel Zagorin
19 452.96	30 Christal Henner-Welland - Michael Rosenberg	43 -1467.14	18 Martin De Knijff - Frederic Wrang
20 440.37	11 Gunnar Hallberg - Michael Moss	44 -1755.18	41 Darren Wolpert - Daniel Korbel
21 377.41	47 Michael Elinescu - Entschow Wladow	45 -2014.18	10 Roger Bates - Chris Compton
22 83.50	17 Franck Multon - Pierre Zimmermann	46 -2079.91	40 Nikolay Demirev - Nicolas L'Ecuyer
23 79.91	21 Neil Chambers - John Schermer	47 -2452.50	16 Ahmed Hussein - Tarek Sadek
24 -20.41	33 Bob Hamman - Hemant Lall	48 -3503.00	48 Wojciech Kurkowski - Roger Lord

Bell-Jones On Top In WBP Pairs

1 358.00	12 Leo Bell - John Jones	8 -48.00	14 Jim Mahaffey - Gavin Wolpert
2 330.00	3 Barry Schaffer - Colby Vernay	9 -62.00	1 Bob Soni - Robert Todd
3 164.00	10 Thomas Carmichael - Joel Wooldridge	10 -70.00	5 Lou Ann O'Rourke - Marc Jacobus
4 100.00	13 Wafik Abdou - Gaylor Kasle	11 -131.00	11 Joshua Donn - Marshall Miles
5 80.00	6 Fred Hamilton - Leonard Ernst	12 -147.00	4 Kenneth Badertscher - Leon Lowe
6 75.00	9 Kerri Sanborn - Stephen Sanborn	13 -261.00	7 Ross Taylor - Jeffrey Smith
7 4.00	8 Mike Cappelletti - John Morris	14 -392.00	2 Marinesa Letizia - Linda Lewis

2009 Cavendish Invitational Auction

#	Pair		Bid	Purchased By
1	Sam Lev	Jacek Pszczola	39,000	Wigoder
2	Ton Bakkeren	Huub Bertens	26,000	Zaleski
3	Curtis Cheek	Joe Grue	29,000	Compton
4	Bjorn Fallenius	Peter Fredin	32,000	DeKnijff
5	Bart Bramley	Mike Passell	23,000	Hussein
6	Brian Glubok	Harry Tudor	12,500	Themselves
7	Michael Elinescu	Entscho Wladlow	17,000	Zimmerman
8	Bruce Rogoff	Louk Verhees	14,500	Zimmerman
9	Darren Wolpert	Dan Korbel	12,500	Themselves
10	Marc Bompis	Jean-Christophe Quantin	16,000	Zaleski
11	Christal Henner-Welland	Michael Rosenberg	12,500	Themselves
12	Josef Piekarek	Alexander Smirnov	22,000	Zimmerman
13	Drew Casen	Jim Krekorian	18,000	Weinstein
14				
15	Fred Stewart	Kit Woolsey	14,500	Zimmerman
16	Roy Welland	Chris Willenken	19,000	Rogoff
17	Martin DeKnijff	Frederic Wrang	13,000	Rogoff
18	David Berkowitz	Bill Pollack	15,000	Rogoff
19	Paul Chemla	Romain Zaleski	12,500	Themselves
20	Marty Fleisher	Chip Martel	17,000	Zimmerman
21	Neil Chambers	John Schermer	16,000	Welland
22	Geir Helgemo	Tor Helness	50,000	Mahaffey
23	Bob Blanchard	Shane Blanchard	12,500	Themselves
24	Gary Cohler	Michael Seamon	27,000	Zaleski
25	Bob Hamman	Hemant Lall	15,000	Rogoff
26	Connie Goldberg	Billy Eisenberg		
27	John Diamond	Eric Greco	15,000	Rogoff
28	Fred Gitelman	Brad Moss	26,000	Welland
29	Roger Bates	Chris Compton	14,500	Zaleski
30	Nikolay Demirev	Nicolas L'Ecuyer	15,000	Welland
31	Jason Feldman	Dan Zagorin	12,500	Themselves
32	Geoff Hampson	Eric Rodwell	55,000	Mahaffey
33	Jill Levin	Jill Meyers	13,000	Zimmerman
34	Michel Bessis	Thomas Bessis	15,000	Welland
35	Zia Mahmood	Charles Wigoder	12,500	Themselves
36	George Jacobs	Ralph Katz	12,500	Themselves
37	Peter Bertheau	Fredrik Nystrom	22,000	Zaleski
38	Seymon Deutsch	John Kranyak	12,500	Themselves
39	Georgio DuBoin	Guido Ferraro	35,000	Mahaffey
40	Kevin Bathurst	Justin Lall	13,000	Rogoff
41	Albert Faigenbaum	Dominique Pilon	13,000	Zaleski
42	Perry Johnson	Jeff Meckstroth	14,500	Zimmerman
43	Boye Brogeland	Odin Svendsen	24,000	Mahaffey
44	Wojciech Kurkowski	Roger Lord	12,500	Themselves
45	Frank Multon	Pierre Zimmermann	12,500	Themselves
46	Gunnar Hallberg	Mike Moss	12,500	Themselves
47	Bobby Levin	Steve Weinstein	61,000	Mahaffey
48	Ahmed Hussein	Tarek Sadek	14,500	Mahaffey
49				
50	Fu Zhong	Zhao Jie	35,000	Hussein

A Pairs Potpourri

by Phillip Alder

This article will include a variety of deals from the second, third and fourth sessions of the pairs. A mixed bag of deals and quality of play.

For example, second in hand at favorable vulnerable, the East players held:

♠ 10 9 3 ♥ J 8 6 4 3 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ K 5.

After a strong-club opening on his right, one intrepid performer leapt to two hearts. It went Pass-Pass-Dble-All Pass. Guess the result.

At another table, North opened a natural one club. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♣	Dble	All Pass	

Guess the result.

We'll come back to the full layout in a moment.

On the other side, there was this defensive play from the first session:

Board 23	North	East
Dlr: South	♠ 10 9 5	♠ A J 8 4 2
Vul: Both	♥ A K J 4	♥ Q 10 7
	♦ A K 9 7 2	♦ J 8 6 4
	♣ K	♣ J

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

West, your partner, leads a fourth-highest club five. Declarer takes it with dummy's king, cashes the diamond ace, unblocking his ten, and plays a diamond to his queen, West discarding a club. South leads a diamond to dummy's king and a diamond to your jack, West throwing a heart and a club. That leaves these cards on view:

Board 23
Dlr: South
Vul: Both

North
♠ 10 9 5
♥ A K J 4
♦ 9
♣ —

East
♠ A J 8 4 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ —
♣ —

What would you lead next?

Now back to the first problem. This was the layout:

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

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

The declarer in two hearts doubled was allowed to take three tricks and go minus 1100. With best defense, North-South could have extracted 1700, taking two spades, five hearts, two diamonds and two clubs, endplaying East at the end.

Two clubs doubled went for 1400. This time declarer dropped a trick. North led the heart ace, cashed the spade ace, and played another spade. South took his king and led the heart king, West ruffing with his three and being overruffed with the seven to lose an extra club trick.

Bridge is strange. If you have a hand like East's and get doubled in two hearts, you know it is going to be bloody. If the defense's hearts were 3-3, you would often escape a double. When they double, the trump stack is over you.

**To all the mothers in the bridge world...
Happy Mother's Day!**

This was the second full deal, which was shown to me by Roger Lord from Saint Louis.

This was the full layout at this juncture:

Board 23	North	♠ 10 9 5	East
Dlr: South	♥ A K J 4	♠ A J 8 4 2	♥ Q 10 7
Vul: Both	♦ A K 9 7 2	♦ J 8 6 4	♣ J
	♣ K		
West	South	♠ K 3	♠ Q 7 6
♥ 9 8 3 2	♥ 6 5	♥ 5	♦ Q 10 3
♦ 5	♦ Q 10 3	♣ Q 10 7 5 4 3	♣ A 9 8 6 2
♣ Q 10 7 5 4 3			

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

West	North	East	South
Piekarek	Kurkowski	Smirnov	Lord
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

If Josef Piekarek (West) had started the defense with the king and another spade, declarer would have had either to get the diamonds right or to guess the endgame to catch East in an endplay. But West decided to go with his long suit.

After winning with dummy's club king, declarer played four rounds of diamonds, putting Alex Smirnov (East) on play. He found the only lead to defeat the contract: the spade jack.

If East leads a low spade, South plays low from his hand. West wins with his king and shifts to a heart, but declarer has several winning lines.

After the spade-jack lead, though, South had to succumb. If he had played low from his hand, East would have continued with a low spade to West's king, and West would have shifted to a heart. And when South covered with his queen, West won with the king, played a spade to his partner's ace, and East led a third spade, endplaying the dummy. The defense took three spades, one heart and one diamond.


Final Bulletin and Results of the Cavendish Invitational Pairs and the World Bridge Production Pairs may be found on the Cavendish Invitational Website at www.cavendishinvitational.com


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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.


**CELL PHONES MAY ONLY
BE PICKED UP
AT THE END OF THE SESSION.**

CIP Leaders After Four Sessions





Bobby Levin



Steve Weinstein

Now we have two declarer-play problems from the second session, rotated in the first case to make South the declarer.

Dlr: West
Vul: N-S

North
♠ Q 8 5 3
♥ A J 9 6
♦ 9 6 2
♣ K 2

South
♠ A
♥ K Q 8 4 3
♦ K 10 4
♣ A J 10 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

West leads the spade jack. What would be your plan?

Dlr: East
Vul: Both

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

South
♠ K 9 7 6
♥ A K 5 4
♦ K 9
♣ A 9 8

You get to six notrump after an uncontested auction. West leads the spade five. What would be your plan?

The first deal was played very nicely by Jill Levin (and, I expect, some others). It was shown to me by David Berkowitz. Have you noticed how sporting everyone is being, telling us about good play by their opponents?

Smoking Policy

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

**What famous bridge player said,
“In an imp match, I like to keep
the pedal to the metal
because I never know what is
going on at the other table.”**

Answer: Jeff Meckstroth

This was the layout:

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

West Berkowitz Pass 4♠	North Meyers Pass 5♥	East Pollack 3♠ All Pass	South Levin 4♥
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Declarer had to avoid losing three diamond tricks (or two diamonds and one club). There are several different endplays, but Levin picked a pretty one.

She won with her spade ace, played a trump to dummy's jack, ruffed a spade high, drew trumps ending in the dummy, and cashed the club king to give this position:

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

Now declarer played a diamond to her ten, endplaying West. When he returned a club, South won with her jack, cashed the ace (throwing a diamond from the dummy) and led the ten. West covered with the queen, of course, and declarer discarded dummy's remaining diamond.

West, endplayed again, tried a low diamond, but Levin ran it to her king.

Plus 650 was worth 26 imps.

The six-notrump slam was interesting, with declarer having to guess which squeeze to play.

Board 26	North		East
Dlr: East	♠ A Q J		♠ 10 3 2
Vul: Both	♥ Q 7		♥ J 8 6
	♦ A Q 7 3		♦ J 10 8 5 4
	♣ J 4 3 2		♣ K 6
	West		South
	♠ 8 5 4		♠ K 9 7 6
	♥ 10 9 3 2		♥ A K 5 4
	♦ 6 2		♦ K 9
	♣ Q 10 7 5		♣ A 9 8

Now you can see the full deal, what lead defeats six notrump?

I liked the line of winning the first trick in the dummy and playing a club to the nine, losing the trick to rectify the count. Then you try to smell out who to squeeze in which suits.

On BBO, Brad Moss won with the spade jack, played a diamond to his king, and led the club nine, which was covered by the ten, jack and king. East shifted to the heart jack — too late. A trick-one heart lead and heart continuation when declarer rectifies the count, would have defeated the contract.

Moss won with dummy's queen, cashed the two top spades, crossed to his club ace, and took the spade king, throwing a club from the dummy while both defenders pitched diamonds. Now a diamond to dummy's queen and the diamond ace squeezed West in the minors.

Plus 1440 was worth 239 imps. Only eight pairs bid and made six notrump. The other seven were Levin-Weinstein, Bates-Compton, Chemla-Zaleski, Multon-Zimmerman, Korbel-Wolpert, Cohler-Seamon and Kurkowski-Lord. Diamond-Greco were plus 1430 in six spades. And eleven pairs went minus 100, but you'll have to look them up for yourself!

The Friendly Tournament

by Sam Leckie, Scotland

One of the outstanding features of the Cavendish that has impressed me over the years is the demeanor of the players to each other, despite the prestige and the huge amount of money involved. Even in the heat of battle, there is a friendliness sometimes tinged with humor. Take the match I watched between Levin-Weinstein and Elinescu-Wladow from Germany.

On the first board, Wladow, not a quick player, took an extraordinarily long time to play the contract. On the second board, after bids by Dr. Elinescu and Weinstein, the tray was passed under the screen. Five minutes later, the tray still had not returned. They shrugged their shoulders and had puzzled expressions on their faces when Elinescu whispered, "You only have him for three boards, I have him forever." Both smiled. Still no tray. Then Weinstein quietly said, "That's a lovely gold watch you are wearing." It seemed

to me to have many extra hands on its face.

"Thank you," replied the doctor. "I've no idea what time it is, but I agree it does look good."

With only one session to go and a lead of 2,497 imps, it is unlikely that Levin-Weinstein will be caught. So they will win their fourth Cavendish in 11 years — a phenomenal feat. Are they really so much better than all of the other pairs? In my view the biggest factor in their favor is the type of scoring. They have mastered the art of gathering routs without taking great risks, and have a sound system. But I also heard this conversation in the parking lot between rounds. Levin said to his partner, "Many years ago, Zia told me it pays to bid all the close slams in the Cavendish. How right he was." Maybe that's their secret — their ability to learn from others and to incorporate it into their play. Mind you, the fact they are pretty good players doesn't hurt.

2009 WBP Pairs Overall Awards

	<u>AUCTION</u>	<u>PLAYERS</u>
1 ST	\$6,944	\$3,674
2 ND	\$4,862	\$2,572
3 RD	\$2,084	\$1,104
3rd Session Award \$1,000		

A Rare Misstep

by Phillip Alder

After two sessions, Levin and Weinstein were 1941.63 imps ahead of Bart Bramley and Mike Passell. After three sessions, they were 2,497 imps ahead of Curtis Cheek and Joe Grue. It would be great to have a wonderful deal that they played, but you must wait for the final bulletin. In the meantime, we must report that they played steadily and happily benefited when the opponents went off the rails, which they seemed to do regularly.

Rarely did Levin and Weinstein misstep, but it did happen on the first board of the fourth session.

Board 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

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

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

East
♠ 9 6
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ A K 3 2
♣ K 8 4

South
♠ Q J 8
♥ Q J 9 4
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A 7 6

West	North	East	South
Compton	Levin	Bates	Weinstein
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦ (a)	Pass
2♥	Dble	Redble	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Maximum pass with four-plus hearts

The defense was excellent. Bates led the heart seven, top of nothing. Compton took dummy's queen with his ace and shifted to the spade two, which was won by dummy's jack. North played a diamond to his queen and East's king. East returned the heart six: nine, ten, spade five. (Declarer could have saved a trick by discarding a club.) North led his diamond nine, but East rose with the ace and shifted to a trump: eight, ten, ace. Declarer tried to cash the diamond jack, but West ruffed it and cashed the spade king to give this position:

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

What did West lead now?

He could have played the ace and another heart, but Compton found the much more pleasing club-queen lead.

If declarer had won with dummy's ace and played another club, East would have won and pushed a heart through. And when North let West hold the trick, he continued with the ace and another heart to endplay the dummy.

Down three, plus 500, was worth 235 imps.

Second After Four Sessions of the Cavendish Pairs



Curtis Cheek



Joe Grue

Schedule of Events

Sunday, May 10, 2009

9:30am Final Session CIP Estancia Ballroom (27 Boards)
10:30am Final Session WBP Pairs Grand Ballroom 3-4 (26 Boards)
2:30pm Closing Party Lobby Bar Terraces

Cavendish Invitational Pairs Overall Awards

Position	Auction Pool	Player Pool
1 st	\$214,228	\$26,460
2 nd	\$137,718	\$17,010
3 rd	\$91,812	\$11,340
4 th	\$68,859	\$8,505
5 th	\$61,208	\$7,560
6 th	\$53,557	\$6,615
7 th	\$45,906	\$5,670
8 th	\$38,255	\$4,724
9 th	\$30,604	\$3,780
10 th	\$22,953	\$2,835

Cavendish Invitational Pairs Session Awards

From Auction Pool to Owners

	Sessions				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
1 st	2,500	4,000	6,500	12,500	20,000
2 nd		2,500	5,000	9,500	12,000
3 rd			2,500	5,000	8,000
4 th				2,500	5,000
5 th					2,500

From Player's Pool to Players

1 st	5,000
2 nd	3,000
3 rd	2,500

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