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CHARITY CHALLENGE CUP

Book of Hands

1968

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for

TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

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TERENCE REESE

and

ALBERT DORMER

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Eric Milnes

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THE CHARITY CHALLENGE CUP

Holders:

The Charity Challenge Cup is not a par contest. It is an ordinary match-point pairs, with the difference that the hands are pre-dealt and are the same throughout the world. In addition to local heat winners, there are overall winners on a percentage basis. This year the inter-nation charity is the British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research.

Since the hands have to be pre-dealt, we make sure they are interesting and colourful hands. They are contributed by leading bridge writers and are taken from past tournaments of all kinds. There is, of course no guarantee that the situation which made the hand interesting in the first place will recur when you play the hand in the Charity Challenge Cup. But we hope that in many situations you will be able to measure your own judgement against that of the person who first played the hand, or against the judgement of the writer who contributed it.

Last year the Cup was competed for in Australia, U.S.A., Uganda, India, Canary Islands, New Zealand, Denmark, Holland, Bahrein, Egypt, South Africa, British Guiana and Mauritius, as well as the British Isles, and International Red Cross Relief received £1015. The Charity Challenge Cup is the one competition which bridge players everywhere can enjoy, at the same time contributing to a very worthy international appeal.

JILL GATTI

Honorary Organiser.

HAND 1

J. C. H. MARX

Dealer South

Love all

NORTH

K Q 10 6 5

K Q 10 6 5

K Q 9 8 6 4

WEST

Q 9 8

A J 8 4 2

Q 9 4

A T 8 4 2

Q 9 4

A T 7 3

10 8 5

This hand is of some antiquarian interest, as it is Deal No. 1 of the first duplicate match to be played in this country, the Anglo-American encounter of 1930 between teams captained by Col. Buller and Culbertson.

5 3 2

It will be seen that 3NT is a good contract for East-West, although difficult to reach in the face of opposing bidding. In the match neither pair made a serious attempt to reach game.

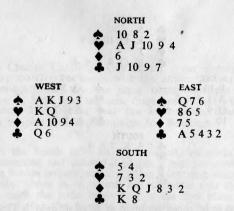
When the Americans were North-South both players passed originally but came in later. Eventually they finished in Four Clubs and went one down

The English North opened One Heart and subsequently called Three Clubs, but East-West bought the contract in Three Diamonds and made an overtrick after the natural spade lead.

E. MILNES

Dealer West

North-South vulnerable



The above deal gave rise to interesting play. West played in Four Spades after South had over-called in diamonds. North led D6, West won South's Jack with the Ace and returned a diamond. South played back a heart and West won the heart continuation.

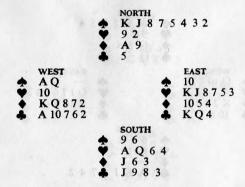
Declarer now led a diamond from hand and North ruffed with the 10 in front of dummy. This was a well chosen falsecard, and after over-ruffing with SQ it looks tempting to rely on South holding S8. Then the last diamond can safely be ruffed in dummy. However, declarer did not fall for the trap. He ruffed dummy's last heart, stripping South of hearts, and ran all his trumps. South was forced down to DK CK 8 and was thrown in with DK to lead away from CK.

HAND 3

Dealer North

G. C. H. FOX

East-West game



Teams of Four, Mayfair Bridge Studio 1964

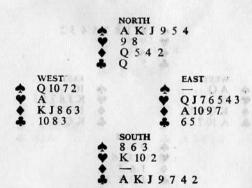
The above deal proved to be fertile ground for misunderstandings. In one room North, rather cautiously, opened Three Spades and after two passes West bid 3NT. This was intended to be a natural call, but after North had bid Four Spades (the bid he should have made on the first round) East ventured Five Hearts. South doubled and West unwisely withdrew to 5NT, doubled by South. After a heart lead and a spade return West cashed his clubs but could only take the obvious six tricks to lose 1400. It looked a poor board, but at the other table.....

North opened Four Spades and after two passes West doubled. East took this as a take-out and jumped to Six Hearts. South doubled this as well as West's retreat to 6NT. Again came a heart lead and a spade return, but West placed South with DA and played diamonds before clubs. He was 9 down and lost 2600!

HAND 4

Dealer East

T. REESE Game all



When the hand above occurred in the 1967 British Bridge League Trials a pre-emptive opening by East set South awkward problems, especially where North-South were playing 'Lower Minor' as a take-out. For example one South decided to risk 3NT (natural) and North raised to 6NT. West, with a difficult lead, chose a passive club but the 4-0 spade break put paid to this curious contract.

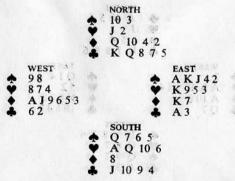
At another table South did call Four Clubs, hoping to clarify the position later, and his partner jumped to Six Spades. East led DA, and declarer ruffed in dummy and finessed SJ. He overtook CQ in dummy and continued with high clubs until West ruffed with Sl0. Declarer over-ruffed and reentered dummy by ruffing his last diamond. Another club from dummy was ruffed and over-ruffed and West's last trump was drawn. Now declarer led a heart, East played low, and not expecting East to hold two Aces he played low from dummy to bring home a thin contract.

1

M. HARRISON-GRAY

HAND 5

North-South game



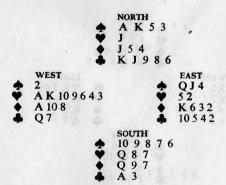
The above hand is taken from the 1958 European Championships in Oslo. It led to a useful gain for the British team against the Italians.

Where the Italians were East-West, East opened One Club after three passes. This was, of course, conventional and after four rounds of bidding East ended in 3NT—a contract in which all depends on the diamond suit playing for six tricks. As the cards lay the contract was hopeless and declarer came to only five tricks.

In the other room East opened fourth in hand with One Spade and West made a well disciplined pass. It is conceivable that this might lead to a missed game but far more often a response on a hand like West's will lead to a negative score. With careful play East scrambled home in his contract of One Spade.

HAND 6
Dealer West

A. BENJAMIN
East-West game



West was faced with a difficult defensive problem on this hand from the 1956 World Championship match between France and the U.S.A. South played in Four Spades doubled after West had called strongly in hearts. West led HA and it was clear that a diamond switch was called for. Seeing all four hands there seems no difficulty in cashing two diamond tricks but West stopped to think. Suppose East's diamonds were Q 6 3 2 and that he held CA instead of a trump trick?

Obsessed with this idea West switched to D10—the right card if that was the set up. Dummy played low and East also contributed a low card, reading his partner's lead as from Q 10 9. Now declarer came to an overtrick for his diamonds went away on dummy's clubs.

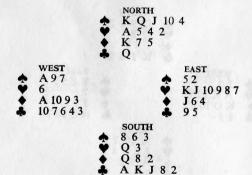
East was perhaps most at fault. If West has DQ 109 then although to play DK gives away a trick it ensures the defeat of the contract as if South holds DA he cannot hold CA.

HAND 7

Dealer North

H. FRANKLIN

Game all



North opened One Spade and South responded Two Clubs. North called Two Hearts and East doubled. Eventually North-South reached Four Spades and West doubled.

East led C9 and declarer won in hand with the Queen. At trick 2 he continued with SK and West won and switched to H6. Declarer won with the Ace, reading the lead as a singleton, and cashed SQ. When S9 did not fall it seemed impossible to get to dummy's clubs as West seemed marked with DA on his double.

Declarer found a neat solution. He went off play with S4. East won a surprising second trump trick with S9 but could not prevent dummy from gaining the lead.

Dealer East

K. KONSTAM

Love all

NORTH
Q 9 4 2
Q 8 3
7 4
K J 6 2

WEST
J6
K K 8 5 3
T 7
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The above hand set declarer interesting problems when it came up in a pairs event. West played 3NT and North led S2. South played the Ace and returned the 7 to the Jack, Queen and King. Declarer played on diamonds and when finally South took his Ace he cashed S10 and exited with a heart. Before declarer played his last winner this was the position:

North S 9 H— D— C K J 6 East S 8 H— D— C A Q 10 South S—H J 6 D— C 9 5 West S— H 10 D 6 C 8 3.

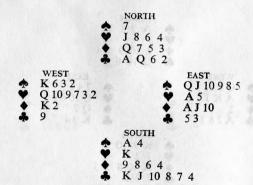
West cashed D6, North had to part with a low club and dummy's S8 went away. East threw a heart and now West stopped to think. It is easy enough for him to make his contract by throwing South in with a heart, but he can make an overtrick if North has CK. Again, if South has CK, would he not have bared it and saved two winning hearts? South made a sensible decision. As not all pairs would be in 3NT with a combined 23 count he made the safe throw-in. Although he missed the over-trick, he secured an excellent score.

HAND 9

Dealer South

J. KELLY

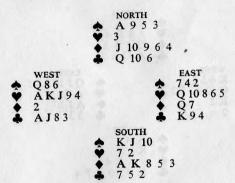
East-West game



This hand came up in the 1952 European Championships in the match between Ireland and Switzerland. With Ireland North-South, South rather cautiously passed and East-West got rapidly to Four Spades for an easy ten tricks.

With Switzerland North-South, however, South opened One Club and East was finally forced to play in Five Spades against the worrying lead of HK. South's intention was clear. He planned to win the first round of trumps and put partner in with a club for a heart ruff. Perhaps the natural way to tackle the problem is to cash DK and DA and lead DJ from hand. If South produces DQ he is allowed to hold the trick while dummy's singleton club goes away. However, the Irish declarer decided to credit North with DQ in spite of the opening bid and successfully finessed DJ to make an overtrick.

HAND 10 Dealer West T. PRIDAY
Game all



After One Heart from West and a response of Two Hearts from East, West is clearly worth a try towards a game. There are many East hands which will offer an excellent play for ten tricks: equally many hands will be of little value to West. It is all a question of West's choice of trial bid.

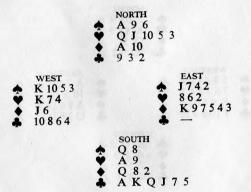
If he selects Three Clubs, his other suit, East will probably accept the try as he has a goodish raise to Two Hearts and his CK looks a useful card. On the other hand if West chooses to call Two Spades East will look unfavourably at his three small spades and sign off with Three Hearts. It is a good hand for those who play 'short suit trial bids'. If West bids Three Diamonds, indicating a shortage East can discount DQ and stop in Three Hearts. As the cards lie only 8 tricks can be made but to stop in Three Hearts and go one off will probably score above average.

HAND 11

Dealer North

V. MOLLO

Love all



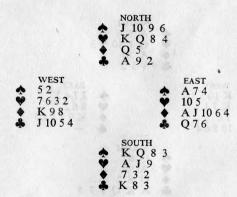
This hand from the 1954 Oxford-Cambridge match led to an unusual result. With Oxford North-South, North played in Five Hearts after South had elected to open 2NT. East led a diamond and declarer was safe for 11 tricks.

At the other table North became declarer in Four Hearts and East led S2. Dummy played the Queen and West's King fell to North's Ace. The finesse of H9 lost to HK and West paused to reflect. If declarer has a club void he would have taken some quick discards on the clubs; if declarer has a doubleton then surely East would have preferred a singleton club lead rather than the spade. But if declarer has a singleton club, a club return will upset his communications. Therefore West played back a club. To his delight, East ruffed and put West in with S10 for a second ruff to defeat the contract.

A. HIRON

Dealer East

North-South game



Even when my partners don't allow me to play the 10-12 no trump that I endorse I still find myself bending the 12-14 no trump a little bit. As dealer with the East hand above at favourable vulnerability 1NT seemed a natural choice and it reaped a good harvest. Neither North nor South felt called upon to contribute anything and 1NT was the final contract. Better things were to come. South decided on a passive lead and picked D3, being a MUD exponent (Middle-Up-Down from three low cards). East's Ace took North's Queen and clubs were attacked. North won with CA and returned D5 to dummy's King. The defenders subsequently forgot to cash hearts and I ended with 8 tricks.

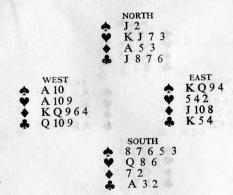
At the other table East passed and North-South had no difficulty in bidding and making Four Spades,

HAND 13

Dealer South

MRS. R. MARKUS

Game all



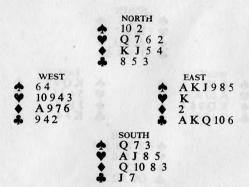
Against West's contract of 3NT North led H3. Prospects did not look hopeful but West held up HA until the third round in case the hand with the thirteenth heart had neither of the two missing Aces. On winning with HA West led a diamond to the Jack and returned D10. North won with the Ace, cashed the last heart (on which South threw C3) and continued with SJ in the hope of finding partner with the Ace. Now declarer had nine tricks.

Although C3 looked a low card it would have been easy for North to find out if his partner held a black Ace. All he has to do is hold off with DA for one more round. Then he will have the chance of seeing two discards from partner and the 3 and 2 of clubs will convey the message.

Dealer West

E. MILNES

Love all



The East-West hands of the deal above represent a nasty problem at match-pointed pairs. Six Spades is a poor contract, Six Clubs fair. But if you play in Five Clubs you are doomed for a poor score as Four Spades with an overtrick scores much better. As the cards lie Six Clubs can be made by drawing two rounds of trumps and then trumping a spade with the 9 of clubs.

If East opens Two Clubs, the bidding will probably go West-Two Diamonds, East-Two Spades, West-2NT, East-Three Clubs, West-Three Diamonds, East-Four Clubs, West-? Now West has a problem! Four Spades, or Five Clubs?

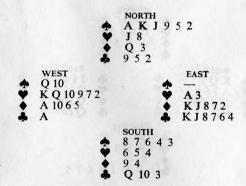
It does not help much if East opens Two Spades for after 2NT from West and Three Clubs from East, West will have much the same sort of problem. Well bid if you and your partner got to Six Clubs; next best Four Spades.

HAND 15

Dealer North

J. C. H. MARX

North-South game



The hand above is taken from the 1947 Camrose match, England v. Scotland. It represents a big swing to Scotland. Six Hearts and Six Diamonds are excellent contract; although Six Hearts is slightly more risky it gives a better pairs score. Scotland sailed into Six Hearts and made an overtrick, but the English pair, in spite of cue-bidding the opponents' suit, stopped in Five Diamonds.

These were the days before the blessings of the unusual no-trump were available to defensive bidders. Not many Easts will be able to resist 2NT over North's One Spade nowadays and it will be interesting to see whether those who use it will fare better or worse than those who do not.

Dealer East

J. C. H. MARX

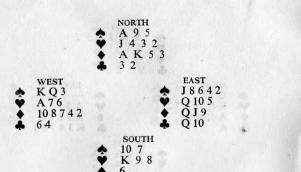
East-West game

HAND 17

Dealer South

G. C. H. FOX

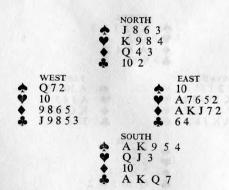
Game all



KJ9875

The above hand comes from the 1948 Camrose match between England and Wales. In both rooms the contract was 3NT by North. At the first table East led DQ. This did not worry declarer who, with some help from the defence, came to 12 tricks.

At the other table events were more interesting. East led a spade and declarer held off for two rounds. Instead of continuing spades, however, West switched to a small diamond. Declarer won and could not bring himself to cash either a top spade or diamond before leading a club. East put up the Queen and declarer ducked, hoping that East on lead with his supposed singleton club would have to make a helpful lead. East, however, exited with C10 and North was in trouble. But an anticlimax was in store. When finally declarer led a low heart from the table West misread the situation and went in with HA to undo all the good work that the defence had put in.



This was the bidding when the hand above was played in a pairs contest some years ago:

South	West	North	East
1S	No	2S	Dble
4S	No	No	No

The ten of hearts was the lead chosen at most tables. East won with the Ace and, as the only real hope is that the ten is a singleton, should continue with H7, a McKenney signal for a diamond return. After a diamond to the Jack another heart ruff defeats the contract. Unhappily the majority of East's tried to nursemaid their partners. They led DK before giving partner his first ruff to show where their entry lay. Now East could not regain the lead, SQ fell and the declarers made ten tricks.

Dealer West

A. PRIDAY

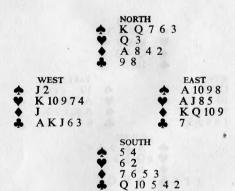
East-West game

HAND 19

K. KONSTAM

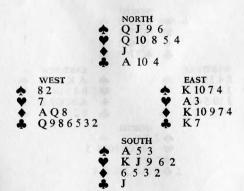
Dealer North

North-South game



At one table, on the above hand from match-play, West opened One Club; North overcalled One Spade and East doubled. North came to only three tricks to concede 700 points but this did not look serious against a vulnerable game.

However, disaster waited around the corner. At the other table East-West put on steam and climbed to Six Hearts. North led SK, declarer won with dummy's Ace and was quick to see where his best chance lay. At trick 2 he finessed CJ, ruffed a club and successfully cashed HAK. Now all that was needed was a 4-3 club break when all of dummy's spades could be thrown, but the suit did not behave and his team lost a further 100 points.



On the above hand from the 1956 Waddington Master Pairs the masters managed to achieve a different score at each of the 8 tables. It would be a bit much to expect that all the results will be different when the hand is played in the present competition!

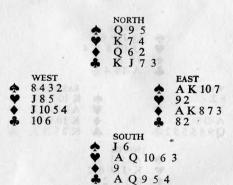
Although neither North nor South has an opening bid, they came effectively into the bidding later on. The North-South top went to a pair who made Four Hearts doubled, and another North-South pair also got to game and could count themselves unlucky not to have been doubled. Occasionally East-West got as high as Five Clubs; once South got a fair score by doubling them for 300 and one South misjudged the situation badly when he went on to Five Hearts and was doubled for one down.

HAND 20 Dealer East H. FRANKLIN

Love all

HAND 21

M. HARRISON-GRAY



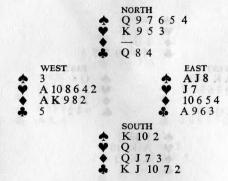
This was the bidding on the above hand from an early round the 1952 Gold Cup:

South	West	North	East
1 H	1 S	2H	1D 3S
4C	No	4H	48
No	No	5C	Dble

West's semi-psychic bid of One Spade seemed to have succeeded when North-South were induced to sacrifice in Five Clubs against a contract which had to go two down. In practice, the bid recoiled in the play. West led DI and declarer played well to cover with dummy's Queen. East was tempted to try and cash another diamond and now two of dummy's spades went on the hearts. Of course East could have tried a spade at trick 2, but that would have been a mistake if West held two spades more and two diamonds less.

Dealer South

Love all



The above hand from the 1957 British Bridge League trials gave a big swing to one team. At both tables the bidding started South-One Club, West-One Heart, North-One Spade, East-Two Hearts, but now the auctions differed. At one table North-South did not bid again and West played in Four Hearts doubled by North.

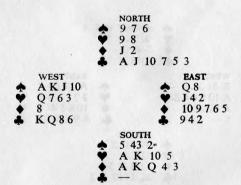
A certain amount of care was necessary in the play of the red suits. Declarer was careful to lead H7 rather than HJ from dummy, and he also played diamonds well by leading low from dummy and inserting the 8 when South followed low. He duly came to ten tricks.

At the other table North-South contested further and North bought the contract in Four Spades doubled. West won the heart lead and attempted to cash DA. Now only a trump finesse was necessary to give the same team another doubled game contract.

Dealer West

MRS. R. MARKUS

Game all



The orthodox opening bid with the West hand is One Club and after two passes and a double by South, West will be in some trouble. However, when the hand came up in the 1960 World Olympiad Ladies' Series, both Wests chose to open One Spade. This set South an interesting problem after two passes. The British South doubled and managed to put the brakes on in Three Diamonds. West led a top spade and switched and declarer can now come comfortably to nine or ten tricks.

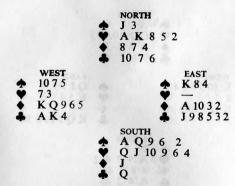
At the other table South elected to bid Three Diamonds when One Spade came round. North unwisely made a forward move and South ended in Five Diamonds doubled. The defence here was a little more alert. West played four rounds of spades, the last of which declarer ruffed high in dummy while East parted with two hearts. Now South only succeeded in making a further 6 tricks for a loss of 1100.

HAND 23

Dealer North

G. C. H. FOX

East-West game



On the above hand from a Pairs contest at the Mayfair Bridge Studio some years ago, the East-West players had a very thin time. Although they can make 11 and 12 tricks in clubs and diamonds respectively, provided East is declarer, at very few tables did they come into the bidding.

After a third hand opening of One Spade or One Heart by South, West has not got the material for a vulnerable Two-level overcall, although some of the less inhibited bidders in the present event might chance their arm. The most likely result will be Four Hearts by either North or South, making eleven tricks.

Dealer East

A. BENJAMIN

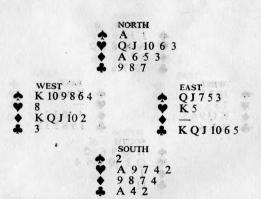
North-South game

Dealer South

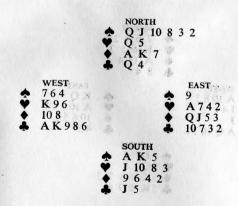
HAND 25

V. MOLLO

North-South game



The above hand didn't actually occur anywhere but it might have done. It will be interesting to see if any pairs fall into the trap. Presumably East opens One Club and West responds One Spade. Now, what is East to rebid? Some scientific pairs nowadays use what is called a 'fragment bid'—here a jump to Four Diamonds to show an entirely distributional raise to Four Spades rather than a strong one. With other partnership Four Diamonds would show a powerful hand with spade support and a void in diamonds. Here, the hand can't be classed as powerful. If East makes the practical looking bid of Four Spades, West might invest in Blackwood. East replies Five Clubs, showing 0 Aces or 4 Aces. As East might hold, say, SAJxx HAxx DAx CAQxx, I wonder whether any Wests will end in 7NT?



When this hand came up, in the 1952 Gold Cup, the saving of an overtrick meant only one i.m.p.; in a pairs event it should prove more important.

Against Two Spades by North East led C2. West cashed two top clubs and switched to D10. Declarer won with the King, East playing the 5, and entered dummy with a top trump to lead a low heart. West, on his toes, went in with HK (a far from obvious play at the table) and played his second diamond. Later East got in with HA and was able to cash DQ.

At the other table West played low on the heart and when finally in with HK had no more diamonds to lead.

Dealer West

T. REESE

Love all

WEST A 1083 A 10987 10652 AQ1072

A defensive position of some interest arose from this deal from the 1952 Portland Pairs. East played in Four Hearts and South led D7. North won with the Ace and returned a spade. After a club finesse and some cross-ruffing declarer reached this position: North S7 HK653 D- C-, East S-, HA 1098 D 10 C--, South S- HQ DK 93 CK, West S 10 HJ4 D- C107.

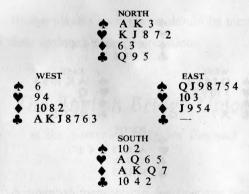
The lead was on the table and a club was played. On this North, instead of discarding his losing spade, dropped a low trump. A diamond lead was then over-ruffed by the King and North was in a position to promote a trick for his partner's HQ by a lead of S7. If North had left himself with only trumps to play, declarer would have had no choice but to go up with HA in the hope that South's Oueen was single.

HAND 27

Dealer North

J. KELLY

Game all



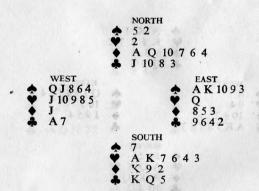
Clearly you don't want to bid Six Hearts on the deal above, but if you play in Four Hearts by North you should make 12 tricks as the cards lie.

When the hand was played East led SQ. Declarer won with the Ace, drew trumps in two rounds and eliminated the spades. Declarer next played off three top diamonds, discarding a club from hand. The fourth diamond followed and when West showed out the count of East's hand became complete. Seven spades, four diamonds, two hearts and hence no clubs. On the fourth diamond North discarded another club to leave East with the lead to give a ruff and discard.

A. HIRON

Dealer East

East-West game



The above deal proved difficult to bid to the right contract when it came up in a teams event some years ago. Five Diamonds is the ideal contract for North-South but it was rarely reached. South opened One Heart after a pass by East and West decided not to compete. North responded Two Diamonds to leave South with an awkward move to make.

Some players chose Three Diamonds but this seems altogether too cautious. The alternative call of Three Hearts worked even worse—it was passed out for one down. If South chooses to be scientific and calls Three Clubs he will probably land on his feet but the call that appeals to me is Four Hearts. Partner knows we have rot opened with a Two-bid, hence our hearts cannot be all that good and our hand must have improved as a result of the Two Diamonds bid. North should convert Four Hearts to Five Diamonds.

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