

Risley Swiss Teams July 2004 by Boris Ewart

1st Peter Foster, Peter Jones, John Leibshuetz and Boris Ewart

This came up in the 1st session. Raymond Semp was in 3NT as W and N led the ♦5.

Brd 26	♠K863			
Dir E	♥A954			
Vul All	♦7542			
	♣J			
♠AQ9		N	♠J752	
♥K72		W	♥Q108	
♦AQ8		E	♦963	
♣K764		S	♣A85	
	♠104			
	♥J63			
	♦KJ10			
	♣Q10932			

He won ♦A over S - ♦K and crossed to ♣A to play ♠2 to ♠Q and N-♠K. N exited with ♦2 to S-♦10 and ♦Q. ♠Q9 were cashed then ♥2 to ♥Q to cash ♠J. S was triple-squeezed on this trick.

Brd 26	♠8			
Dir E	♥A95			
Vul All	♦74			
	♣			
♠		N	♠J	
♥K7		W	♥108	
♦8		E	♦9	
♣K76		S	♣85	
	♠			
	♥J6			
	♦J			
	♣Q109			

Manchester Bridge Club Ruia Cup 2004
1st Peter Foster Phil Callow John Leibshuetz, Boris Ewart

This hand came up in the penultimate round.

	♠QJ7			
	♥862			
	♦A105			
	♣KJ104			
♠A9854		N	♠3	
♥K9753		W	♥J104	
♦7		E	♦Q9632	
♣A3		S	♣Q752	
	♠K1062			
	♥AQ			
	♦KJ84			
	♣986			

W K.N	N J.L	E J.S	S B.E
No	No	No	1NT
No	2♠*	No	3♣*
No	3NT	End	

Kath Nelson led the ♥5 round to ♥Q. I led ♠2 to ♠J which held. I next played ♠Q and Jeff discarded ♦2. Kath incorrectly also let this win. I now woke up and ran ♦10. When this held I had an easy 9 tricks by knocking out the ♠A and picking up the ♦ later. After the ♥Q, I should have led the ♠10 and then the ♠2 to the ♠J. When I discover the 5-1 ♠ split I can then run the ♦10. If Kath had won the ♠Q and continued ♥ I don't have the entries now to make 4 ♦ tricks.

This hand was crucial in the final match :

♠A64		N	♠K8
♥109752		W	♥AKQJ6
♦86		E	♦AKQ5
♣AK3		S	♣84

W G.H	N J.L	E B.C	S B.E
2♥	No	2♣*	No
5♣*	No	4NT*	No
6♥	No	5♥	No
		?	

Brian Cornelius chose to open 2♣ on the E hand and when Gary Hyett responded 2♥ launched into RKCB. The 5♣ response showed 0/3 which is impossible as how can Gary give a 2♥ positive to 2♣ with 0 controls but unfortunately there are not 3 controls missing in the E hand. Brian could only convert to 5♥ and Gary raised to 6♥ - standard practice when you have 3 controls. Brian passed and missed 7♥ bid by our team mates. We beat them 17-3 - just enough to win by 1 V.P.

Mind Sports Olympiad – Manchester 2004 – Bridge by Boris Ewart.
Mens Pairs

1st Justin Hackett & Mike Alexander
2nd John Holland & Dave McDouall
3rd John Hassett & Bill Hirst

Not everybody got to this solid 6♥ contract:

Board 14	♠AJ93			
Dealer E	♥Q9865			
Vul Nil	♦-			
	♣AK65			
♠42		N	♠8765	
♥4		W	♥K7	
♦QJ10973		E	♦A854	
♣Q1097		S	♣832	
	♠KQ10			
	♥AJ1032			
	♦K62			
	♣J4			

A lot depends on the choice of opening bid on the S hand and the action taken by E-W. If S opens 1♥ then I think N should sail to 6♥ especially if E-W barrage in ♦. If S opens 1NT and W bid 3♦ (WJO) then it is more difficult.

This hand has a Greek-Gift theme:

Board 18	♠KJ986			
Dealer E	♥KQ96543			
Vul N-S	♦-			
	♣5			
♠1054		N	♠AQ32	
♥A		W	♥1082	
♦J1097		E	♦AQ62	
♣AK1097		S	♣43	
	♠7			
	♥J7			
	♦K8543			
	♣QJ862			

W	N	E	S
X	2♥	No	2♣*
X	No	No	No

N-S were playing 2♣ shows the minors. After this it is difficult for E-W to reach a minor suit contract and the 2♥ bid has sunk any chances in NT. I led the ♣4 to ♣J and ♣K. Partner cashed ♥A and then led ♦J. N should have ruffed this, crossed to ♥J and led ♠7 to ♠9 and ♠Q. When the ♠10 drops later he ends with 9 tricks for + 770. At the table N discarded ♠6 and I took ♦A and exited with ♣3 to ♣8 and ♣9. ♠4 to ♠J and ♠Q came next and I exited with ♥8 to ♥J. The ♦K was cashed but we could not be stopped from coming to 2 more ♠ tricks for 1 down and the magic +200.

Mind Sports Olympiad - Multiple Teams
1st Fu Zong, Craig Fisher, Maria Budd
Malcolm Harris
2nd Michael Byrne, Alexander Morris,
Ben Green Brian Senior
3rd Tapa Mitra, Carol Waters, Anne Super
Maurice Super

The burning question on this hand was could you make 6♠ by W on the ♣6 lead?

Board 10 ♠5
 Dealer E ♥Q106432
 Vul All ♦Q5432
 ♣6

♠AJ109	N	♠KQ764
♥75	W	♥A98
♦KJ10	E	♦-
♣Q843	S	♣AJ1092

♠832
 ♥KJ
 ♦A9876
 ♣K75

The answer is No. If ♠ had been 2-2 then you can win ♣A, draw trumps in 2 rounds and concede a trick to ♣K. The 3-1 ♠ split stops you getting the 3 ♦ ruffs in dummy and then getting back to draw the last ♠ with S who will then be able to ruff a ♣ winner.

Unfortunately in my match they played 6♠ by E on the ♦A lead so it was easy. S has to find the tough lead of a ♥ to beat 6♠ by E. On the ♠2 lead the ♠9 wins then ♦10 ruffed and ♣9 taken by ♣K. ♠3 to ♠10 and ♦J ruffed. ♣10 to ♣Q and ♦K ruffed. Then ♣2 to ♣8 to draw the ♠8 and then back to ♣AJ to park ♥5.

Mind Sports - Point a Board Teams
1st Helgemo and the Hacketts

The form of scoring makes it very important to cash defensive tricks. I thought we had won this board by reaching 6♠ instead of 6♦ - S taking the ♣A to find N had not led a ♣ at the other table so W now made 13.

Board 14 ♠64
 Dealer E ♥J10872
 Vul Nil ♦103
 ♣Q864

♠KQJ1072	N	♠A9
♥3	W	♥AKQ654
♦QJ82	E	♦AK94
♣32	S	♣K

♠853
 ♥9
 ♦765
 ♣AJ10975

W	N	E	S
2♠	No	3♥	No
3♠	No	4NT	No
5♦	No	6♠	End

The problem on this hand is to play no higher than 4NT and to try to make 12. I had a more interesting auction:

Board 16 ♠K974
 Dealer W ♥J62
 Vul E-W ♦1094
 ♣974

♠AQ105	N	♠J3
♥1053	W	♥AK74
♦K5	E	♦AJ72
♣AK65	S	♣QJ3

♠862
 ♥Q98
 ♦Q863
 ♣1082

W	N	E	S
1♣	No	1♥!	No
1♠!	No	2♦*	No
3♥	No	6♣	End

N led ♣4 to ♣J and I ran ♠J to ♠K. N failed to return a ♠ that would have stopped the legitimate reverse-dummy line. Instead N returned ♣7 so I won ♣Q and cashed ♣A. I then cashed ♠AQ10 discarding ♥74. S was caught in a trump squeeze if I had ♥J he could not discard a ♥ so he discarded ♦3. I read the situation and played ♦K, ♦A and ruffed a ♦ to drop ♦Q.

Board 16 Dealer N Vul Nil.
 ♠J6 N ♠109832
 ♥AK973 W E ♥Q8542
 ♦5 S ♦J4
 ♣96542 ♣8

W	N	E	S
?	1♦	No	3♥*
No	3♠	No	4♣
No	4♦	No	4♠
?	4NT	No	5♥*
?	6♦	No	No

I passed as W at every opportunity so E did not lead a ♥ - made 13 for 0 points. 6♥ is cheap.

Mind Sports Olympiad - Swiss Teams

There were no pre-dealt hands. Here was a hand that proves the point that when you have lots of points you should play in NT.

		♠KJ10		
		♥QJ62		
		♦Q105		
		♣A86		
♠987542	N	♠-		
♥K5	W	♥1098743		
♦62	E	♦9873		
♣943	S	♣Q52		
		♠AQ63		
		♥A		
		♦AKJ4		
		♣KJ107		

W	N	E	S
	1NT	No	2♠*
No	3♥*	No	3♠*
No	4♠	No	6♠
No	No	No	

2♠ was a range enquiry and 3♥ showed a maximum 1NT with 4♥. 3♠ was now a natural 4 suit slam try. N should have bid 3NT. Having not heard a 4♣ cue-bid S now settled for 6♠ and was surprised to find only 3♠ in dummy. The ♠2 lead also provided the next shock when E blew out.

All that could be done was to force W to ruff a ♦ trick and win the ♠ return with the ♠J. A finesse of the ♣Q trough E and the 3-3 split enabled a minor winner to be played at W to squash his long ♠ winner for 12 tricks. At the other table N opened a supposed 15-17 1NT. S counted a combined 37 count and so raised to 7NT. N was lucky when he too guessed the ♣Q.

I missed a strip squeeze on this hand but I think W can avoid the end-play:

		♠6		
		♥AK65		
		♦874		
		♣AK763		
♠AQ9742	N	♠J83		
♥Q873	W	♥J94		
♦-	E	♦J10932		
♣Q108	S	♣94		
		♠K105		
		♥102		
		♦AKQ65		
		♣J52		

W	N	E	S
2♠	3♣	No	1NT 3NT

W led ♠7 to ♠J and ♠K. The ♦A brought the bad news – W discarding ♥3. You can make the contract if you read the situation and you get some co-operation from W. You need to cash 5 red suit winners and hope W has not got rid of the ♥Q. He can then be thrown in with a major to eventually lead away from the ♣Q.

N.B. The timing has to be accurate – cross to ♥A and play ♦8 to ♦Q – W discards ♠2. Cross to ♥K and back to ♦K. If W discards ♥Q then you have to exit with ♠10 and hope W does not have the courage to exit with ♠4 to put E in with ♠8. If W discards the ♠4 then cross to ♣K and exit with ♥5 to put W in with ♥Q. Your ♠10 prevents E from getting the lead.

Isle of Man Congress 2004. Swiss Teams

This hand illustrates how keeping quiet can sometimes make it harder for the opposition.

Board 23
Dealer S
Vul All

		♠7		
		♥QJ1086		
		♦J9652		
		♣73		
♠K85	N	♠QJ109432		
♥73	W	♥4		
♦K1043	E	♦7		
♣J642	S	♣10985		
		♠A6		
		♥AK952		
		♦AQ8		
		♣AKQ		

W	N	E	S
No	2♥*	3♠	2♦*
4♠	5♥	No	4♥
No	No	No	6♥

2♦ showed any GF hand and 2♥ was a relay. You can't blame E for the 3♠ preempt but a pass may have led to 3NT by S. S chose to bid 4♥ and W made life easy by bidding 4♠. When N found a 5♥ raise it was easy for S to bid 6♥.

Board 8
Dealer W
Vul Nil

		♠J1096		
		♥92		
		♦J102		
		♣10872		
♠8753	N	♠A		
♥1073	W	♥KQJ54		
♦AK76	E	♦QJ854		
♣K5	S	♣A6		
		♠KQ42		
		♥A86		
		♦3		
		♣QJ943		

W	N	E	S
No	No	1♥	2♣
X*	3♣	4♦	No
4♥	End		

This is quite a difficult slam to bid as E will often place W with wasted ♠ values. The 4♦ bid has cramped the auction – perhaps W has to bid 5♣. A possible auction is:

W	N	E	S
No	No	1♥	2♣
X*	3♣	X*	No
3♦	No	4♣	No
5♣	No	6♦	End

The T/O-X by E enables W to bid 3♦ and then E to cue-bid 4♣. It costs nothing for W to cue-bid 5♣. The failure by W to cue-bid a major leads E to placing W with good ♦ and so the slam is bid. A subtle point on this hand is that E can place W with a 4.3.4.2 shape or 4.2.5.2 shape from the bidding.

Isle of Man - Championship Pairs

This was tough to reach 7♦ especially after a bidding misunderstanding.

Board 2 ♠AQJ7
 Dealer E ♥A4
 Vul N-S ♦AQ73 ♣KQ6

♠965		N	♠K10432
♥KQJ1085	W	E	♥762
♦42			♦J10
♣J3		S	♣542

♠8
 ♥93
 ♦K9865
 ♣A10987

W	N	E	S
2♥*	X	No	2NT*
No	3NT*	No	4NT
No	6NT	No	

S should have bid 3♦ to show some values intending to bid 4♣ next. Over the Lebensohl 2NT N bid 3NT to show a good hand and S meant 4NT to show the minors. N took it as quantitative without a ♥ stop and bid 6NT – thankfully there were 12 top tricks.

A similar NT theme came up on this hand:

Board 16 ♠874
 Dealer W ♥874
 Vul E-W ♦AQ ♣AKQ42

♠-		N	♠AQ92
♥K6	W	E	♥J10532
♦J10987632			♦54
♣1096		S	♣87

♠KJ10653
 ♥AQ9
 ♦K
 ♣J53

W	N	E	S
3♦	3NT	No	4NT
No	No	No	

S intended 4NT as Blackwood as his methods were:
 4♣ is a range enquiry in 1 point steps starting from 15/16 then 17 etc
 4♦ is Flint to 4♥ for pass or correct to 4♠.
 4♥/4♠ are slam moving.

Apart from the double-dummy line of running the ♠8 having won the ♥A, you cannot make 6♠ but you can make 6NT by S/6NT by N as long as E does not lead a ♥.

Great Northern Swiss Pairs 2004.

The trouble with Swiss Pairs is that sometimes the hands tend to run E-W or N-S in a set and if you are sat the wrong way for the big hands then your results are in the lap of the gods. The first set had back-to-back grand-slams for N-S.

Board 1 ♠AK
 Dealer N ♥A5
 Vul Nil ♦KQJ8763 ♣AK

♠1097		N	♠6432
♥QJ9	W	E	♥1087632
♦4			♦5
♣Q109763		S	♣84

♠QJ85
 ♥K4
 ♦A1092
 ♣J52

W	N	E	S
No	2♣*	No	2♦*
No	3♦	No	4NT*
No	5♣*	No	5♥*
No	6♥*	No	7♦
No	7NT	End	

4NT was RKCB with 5♣ showing 1 or 4. 5♥ was a relay for ♦Q and kings. 6♥ showed ♦Q and either the ♥K or 2 kings not including the ♥K. S should probably bid 7NT at this point.

Board 2 ♠AQJ
 Dealer E ♥Q532
 Vul N-S ♦J ♣AJ964

♠7654		N	♠109832
♥109	W	E	♥74
♦K83			♦Q95
♣10753		S	♣K82

♠K
 ♥AKJ86
 ♦A107642
 ♣Q

W	N	E	S
No	2♣	No	1♦
No	4NT*	No	5♦*
No	5♥	No	6♥

5♦ showed 0 or 3. N corrects to 5♥ and S goes onto 6♥ because he has 3. 7♥ is against the odds but S might have tried 5♠ to show ♠K holding 5♥. N could have then have bid 7♥.

This was a tough slam for E-W:

Board 16 ♠4
 Dealer W ♥1092
 Vul E-W ♦J1085 ♣K10986

♠KJ10876		N	♠A532
♥Q864	W	E	♥KJ3
♦K73			♦A62
♣-		S	♣A74

♠Q9
 ♥A75
 ♦Q94
 ♣QJ532

W	N	E	S
No	No	1♠	No
4♣*	No	4♦*	No
5♣*	No	5♥*	No
6♠	End		

I know some players who would open 1♠ on the W hand. You could also try Jacoby-2NT:

W	N	E	S
No	No	1♠	No
2NT*	No	3♠*	No
4♣*	No	4♦	No
5♣*	No	5♥*	No
6♠	End		

2NT is GF with ♠, 3♠ showed a Bal mild slam interest then 4♣ was Splinter and the auction is like before.

Great Northern Swiss Pairs 2004 – 2.

1st Phil Godfrey & Steve Raine
 2nd Mike Theelke & Paul Hooker
 3rd Sue & Nick Woodcock
 3rd Jane Jensen & Chris Jagger

On this hand you had to avoid the slam:

Board 4 ♠73
 Dealer W ♥A
 Vul All ♦AKQ984
 ♣AJ97

♠Q1096	N	♠J5
♥KQ874	W	♥J9532
♦107	E	♦J52
♣42	S	♣KQ3

♠AK842
 ♥106
 ♦63
 ♣10865

W	N	E	S
No	1♦	No	1♠
No	3♣	No	4♣
No	4♥*	No	4♠*
No	?		

At this point you should play that 4NT by N is less interested and 5♣ still interested. S passes either bid but would bid on with ♣Q or ♣K.

This hand has a Crocodile-Coup theme:

Board 16 ♠7
 Dealer W ♥K6532
 Vul E-W ♦10985
 ♣Q92

♠KQ10963	N	♠J852
♥Q84	W	♥A97
♦A4	E	♦J2
♣J4	S	♣A863

♠A4
 ♥J10
 ♦KQ763
 ♣K1075

W	N	E	S
1♠	No	3♠	No
4♠!	No	No	No

N led ♦10 to ♦A and then ♠9 to ♠A. S cashed ♦Q then led ♦6 for discard of ♣4 and ruff in dummy. ♣A and ruff ♣3 then back to 8♠ to ruff ♣6 and then to ♥A – S playing ♥J. It was looking like S had a 2.2.5.4 shape so the odds were N had the ♥K. The ♣8 was led in this position:

Board 16 ♠-
 Dealer W ♥K65
 Vul E-W ♦9
 ♣-

♠K10	N	♠5
♥Q8	W	♥97
♦-	E	♦-
♣-	S	♣8

♠-
 ♥10
 ♦K7
 ♣10

W ruffs ♣8 and exits with ♥8 to end-play S for another ruff and discard or hopes S has bare ♥K. If N had ♥K10 and S ♥J3 it was essential for S to drop ♥J on the ♥A to avoid the end-play.

Great Northern Swiss Pairs 2004 – 2.

Here was another grand-slam:

Board 21 ♠A1084
 Dealer N ♥AKQJ84
 Vul N-S ♦K10
 ♣Q

♠KQJ6	N	♠953
♥965	W	♥1072
♦9	E	♦J853
♣J8654	S	♣972

♠72
 ♥3
 ♦AQ7642
 ♣AK103

W	N	E	S
No	1♥	No	2♦
No	2♠	No	3♣*
No	3♥	No	4♦
No	4NT	No	5♠*
No	5NT	No	6♣*
No	7NT		

All very well if 4NT agreed ♦.

Great Northern Swiss Pairs 2004 – 3

This slam was a defence problem:

Board 2 ♠Q5
 Dealer S ♥AQ83
 Vul E-W ♦Q4
 ♣AQJ53

♠A	N	♠973
♥K96542	W	♥J10
♦6	E	♦KJ853
♣K10842	S	♣976

♠KJ108642
 ♥7
 ♦A10972
 ♣-

W	N	E	S
No	6♠	End	4♠

Best defence is to cash the ♠A then switch to ♥5 to kill the dummy. At the table the ♣4 was led to ♣J – S discarding ♦2. ♠5 to ♠3, 10 and A. W has to now lead ♥5 to break up the squeeze but exited with ♦6 to Q, K and A. A lot of ♠ were cashed but S did not realise the ♥8 would be a winner after finessing the ♥K – coming down to ♥AQ and ♣AQ instead of ♥AQ8 and ♣A.

This was a nice example of a lead directing bid:

Board 16 ♠A86
 Dealer W ♥9864
 Vul E-W ♦J7642
 ♣2

♠KQ105	N	♠742
♥A	W	♥K2
♦K109	E	♦AQ83
♣KJ1043	S	♣Q985

♠J93
 ♥QJ10753
 ♦5
 ♣A76

W	N	E	S
1♣	No	1♦	2♥
X*	3♥	4♣	4♦*
?			

Although N should have bounced to 4♥ the 3♥ raise has left room for the 4♦ bid by S. Now all E-W can do is take a penalty out of 4♥ or somehow find 4NT to play. If they try 5♣ then N leads the ♦J (Suit Preference). S wins ♣A at some point and puts N in with ♠A to get the ♦ ruff.

Great Northern Swiss Pairs 2004 – 3.

This was the 1st extreme 2-suiter:

Board 19 ♠J6
 Dealer S ♥983
 Vul E-W ♦AK1098
 ♣1098

♠KQ109854	N	♠32
♥AQ762	W	♥K4
♦4	E	♦7652
♣-	S	♣J7543

♠A7
 ♥J105
 ♦QJ3
 ♣AKQ62

W	N	E	S
No	No	1♣	4♠
		?	

At the table I passed and W made 11. A double does not work as N may pass or bid 5♦ which is a good save. The winning bid is 4NT. This has 10 tricks on ♠K lead so W should go onto 5♥ and E converts to 5♠.

Here was an easy small slam:

Board 22 ♠Q92
 Dealer E ♥AKQ6
 Vul E-W ♦Q94
 ♣KQ5

♠KJ6	N	♠753
♥109842	W	♥73
♦6	E	♦K1075
♣10432	S	♣9876

♠A1084
 ♥J5
 ♦AJ832
 ♣AJ

W	N	E	S
No	1♥	No	1♦
No	4NT*	No	5♦*
No	5NT	No	6♠*
No	6NT	End	

N should have bid 2♣ (FSF) over 1♠ - S bids 3NT and N bids 6NT. Played by S the play is easy as W cannot lead a ♠. S leads the ♦Q from dummy to establish 4♦, 3♣, 4♥ and 1♠ trick.

This was the 2nd extreme 2-suiter:

Board 32 ♠AK102
 Dealer W ♥Q108
 Vul E-W ♦Q8753
 ♣9

♠5	N	♠9843
♥AK9542	W	♥63
♦-	E	♦AKJ962
♣KQJ875	S	♣3

♠QJ76
 ♥J7
 ♦104
 ♣A10642

W	N	E	S
1♥	No	1NT*	No
4♣	No	4♥	End

E-W were playing Precision and W had shown a big ♥-♣ 2-suiter. N led ♠A then ♠K ruffed by W. ♣Q to ♣A and ♥7 to ♥K then ♣5 ruffed by N – S playing ♣2. You can now work out that W is 1.6.0.6 and return ♥Q to protect partner's ♣ trick.