

# 47. And somewhere hearts are light\*

*By Ron Klinger*

The Alt Invitational, held in April, was organized by bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online). There were eight teams, playing a round-robin, followed by semi-finals and a final. These were the teams:

<b>Blass</b>	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
<b>De Botton</b>	Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes, Artur Malinowski
<b>Hungary</b>	Miklos Dumbovich, Gal Hegedus, Csaba Szabo, Balasz Szegedi, Gabor Winkler
<b>Uppmark</b>	Peter Bertheau, Per Ola Cullin, Simon Hult, Marion Michielsen, Fredrik Nyström, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark
<b>Meltzer</b>	Rose Meltzer, Nikolay Demirev, Bartosz Chmurski, Piotr Nawrocki, Piotr Tuczynski, Piotr Wiankowski
<b>Milner</b>	Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland
<b>Street</b>	Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski
<b>Team NL</b>	Maarten Schollaardt, Merijn Groenenboom, Danny Molenaar, Tim Verbeek, Joris van Lankveld, Berend van den Bos, Bart Nab, Bob Drijver, Guy Mendes de Leon, Thibo Sprinkhuizen
<b>Zhao</b>	Zhao Chen, Liu Jing, Bauke Muller, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs

**Round 3:** **BLASS** beat **MILNER** by 43-33 (12.33-7.67) **ZHAO** beat **MELTZER** 76-55 (14.43-5.57)  
**TEAM NL** beat **HUNGARY** 56-41 (13.34-6.66) and **DE BOTTON** beat **STREET** by 69-51 (13.90-6.10).

## Ranking after Round 3:

- =1. **TEAM NL** 43.69
- =1. **DE BOTTON** 43.69
3. **BLASS** 40.57
4. **MELTZER** 30.51
5. **STREET** 25.51
6. **ZHAO** 24.27
7. **HUNGARY** 18.79
8. **MILNER** 12.97

South dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	2♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (1) 13-15 points
- (2) Simple Stayman
- (3) 5+ clubs, forcing

What would you lead as West from:

- ♠ 87
- ♥ 109
- ♦ KQ10876
- ♣ J86

\*From *Casey at the Bat*, by Ernest Lawrence Thayer

Round 3 : Board 4

South dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ QJ6	
	♥ Q542	
	♦ --	
	♣ AQ7432	
West		East
♠ 87		♠ A10542
♥ 109		♥ AJ7
♦ KQ10876		♦ 943
♣ J86		♣ 109
	South	
	♠ K93	
	♥ K863	
	♦ AJ52	
	♣ K5	

Every table ended in 4♥. There were various paths to 4♥. ZHAO North-South had the auction in the preceding problem. Lead: ♦K, N-S +620.

At the other table, MELTZER North-South: 1♣ : 1♦, showing hearts, : (1♠), 2♥ : 2♠ (game-try), 2NT (spade stopper) : 3♣ (natural, forcing), 3♦ (natural, stopper) : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♦K? N-S +620, no swing,

DE BOTTON North-South: 1NT : 2♣, 2♥ : 4♦ (splinter, 4 hearts, 0-1 diamond, slam try), 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♦K?, N-S +620.

STREET North-South: 1♦ : 1♥ : (1♠), 2♥ : 4♥, all pass. East led the ♣10, N-S +620, no swing.

BLASS North-South: 1NT : 3♦ (shortage), 3♥ : 4♦ (diamond void), 4♥, all pass. Lead: West led the ♠8! East ducked and South won with the ♠9. South played the ♥3: nine – queen – ace. East cashed the ♠A and gave West a spade ruff. West played the ♦K, ruffed. Declarer played the ♥4 from dummy: seven – eight – ♦6 and the ♥K for ten tricks, +620.

MILNER North-South: 1♦ : 1♥ : (1♠), 2♥ : 4♥, all pass. East led the ♣10, N-S +620, no swing.

HUNGARY North-South: 1♦ : 1♥ : (1♠), 2♥ : 4♥, all pass. East led the ♣10, king. The ♥3 went to the ♥Q and ♥A. East switched to the ♠2, king. Declarer, North, cashed the ♥K and played ♣5 to the ♣A, followed by the ♣Q. East ruffed and continued with the ♠4. North won and made the rest, +650.

TEAM NL North-South: 1♣ : (1♦) : Double, showing hearts : 2♠ (spades + diamond fit), 2NT : 3♦ : Double for takeout : Pass : 3♥, Pass : 4♥, all pass. East won the spade lead and returned a spade. South won in hand and played ♥3: nine – queen – ace. East gave West a spade ruff. West switched to the ♣6. South won with the ♣K and cashed the ♥K. That left East's ♥J high for the setting trick, East-West +100 and +12 Imps. South could have succeeded by winning the second spade in the North hand and playing a low heart or by winning the club switch in dummy and finessing the ♥8.

Where the lead was the ♦K, the play generally went ♦K, ruffed, ♥Q or a heart to the king and a heart return, ducked in the North hand. South now lost two heart tricks and the ♠A. If East plays the ♥A, and returns a diamond, declarer takes the ♦A and makes 1 diamond, 2 hearts, the diamond ruff and six clubs.

From *Winning Suit Contract Leads*, by David Bird and Taf Anthias on page 74: Leads from a doubleton are much more effective than most people think. Leads from a spot card doubleton work well. This is mainly because you may be leading towards partner's honours in the suit.

Although declarer can still make 4♥ double dummy after the ♠8 lead, the spade lead gives you the best chance of defeating 4♥. The ♦K is reasonable and looks safer. Where East bid 1♠ and where North showed diamond shortage, it was unusual for West to prefer the ♦K lead to the spade lead.

At the five tables where South was in 4♥, three Wests led the ♦K and South made 4♥. Two led the ♠8 and one South succeeded, one failed.

East dealer : Both vulnerable

North  
♠ J97  
♥ A876  
♦ Q10752  
♣ A

West  
♠ A1062  
♥ --  
♦ KJ9  
♣ KJ7532

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Dble	2NT <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) 11+ points, 4+ hearts

(2) Not forcing

West leads the ♣5: ace – ten - four. Then comes the ♥6: five – king – ♣3 and the ♦6 . . . How would you defend as West?

Round 3 : Board 7

East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
♠ A1062	♠ J97	♠ KQ3	♠ 854
♥ --	♥ A876	♥ 542	♥ KQJ1093
♦ KJ9	♦ Q10752	♦ 843	♦ A6
♣ KJ7532	♣ A	♣ Q1086	♣ 94

One of yesterday's questions about this deal:

Right-hand opponent passes. With both sides vulnerable, what do you do with:

♠ 854  
♥ KQJ1093  
♦ A6  
♣ 94

Seven Souths opened 1♥ and one started with a weak 2♥. The powerful hearts might have encouraged the Souths to choose 1♥ despite having only 10 HCP.

	North	
	♠ J97	
	♥ A876	
	♦ Q10752	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ A1062		♠ KQ3
♥ --		♥ 542
♦ KJ9		♦ 843
♣ KJ7532		♣ Q1086
	South	
	♠ 854	
	♥ KQJ1093	
	♦ A6	
	♣ 94	

After 1♥, two West overcalled 2♣ and ended in 5♣ doubled. One was one down for –200, the other was two down, –500.

At the other six tables, South was in 4♥, usually after 1♥ : Double by West. After the weak 2♥ opening, West doubled and North bid 4♥, all pass. Every West led a low club. The last of yesterday's questions: How should South play in 4♥ after West leads a low club won by the ace?

Barring a miracle of the ♦K being singleton, South figures to lose three spades and a diamond. Three declarers gave themselves almost no chance. They drew trumps and played ♦A and a second diamond. West won and switched to spades for one down.

Three declarers (Rose Meltzer of [MELTZER](#), Liu Jing of [ZHAO](#) and Alexander Hydes of [DE BOTTON](#)) opted to give West a chance to go wrong. After the ♣A, they played the ♥6 to the ♥K, followed by the ♦6. Hydes made 4♥ when West duly played second-hand-low and the ♦Q won. Now declarer drew trumps and lost just three spades.

Meltzer and Jing went one down when West (Simon De Wijs of [ZHAO](#) and Bartosz Chmurski of [MELTZER](#) respectively) found the right defence. On South's ♦6, they rose with the ♦K and switched to spades. The defence took three spades for one down, no swing.

On the ♣A at trick 1, East should play ♣10, suit-preference for spades. Meltzer received the ♣10, Chmurski the ♣8. On ♥6, both Easts played ♥5, highest trump, again potentially suit-preference for spades.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. You are the dealer at favourable vulnerability. What would you do with:

♠ K87642  
♥ J  
♦ K109  
♣ 1052

2. With both sides vulnerable, East passes and South opens 2♠ (weak, 5 spades and a 4+ minor). West passes. What would you do as North with:

♠ Q1053  
♥ Q74  
♦ A9  
♣ KQJ7

**Why not discuss the problem by phone with your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?*