



NOT NEWS

2001

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TALES OF BAL - II

by Broniek Burza

One night after the 3rd match, my teammates and I were discussing the advantages of different bidding conventions after the opponents' weak or strong 1NT opening.

Somebody commented "After the opponents strong 1NT, there is no point to use the double for penalty. This is a struggle for a part-score and the double should be used to show distributional hands. There is almost never a game on for our side if one of the opponents opens a strong NT".

"Yeah, that's true", commented Bal, "but if the game is on, you can play 'double dummy' because you know exactly where all the missing points are."

Then he quickly wrote the following hand on a piece of paper and asked us how would we make this vulnerable game after an uncomplicated auction in one of Swiss pairs event he played in Europe:

The dealer was East and the bidding was as follows:

West	North	East	South
		1NT	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♠
All pass			

The opening lead was ♠T. West played ♠A and then played a small spade.

♠ QT9
♥ AQxx
♦ 8xxx
♣ xx

♠ AKJxxx
♥ xx
♦ KJ
♣ Jxx

"Apart of Ace of diamonds there are two losers in clubs and so the finesse in hearts must work if the game is on",

NOT FINAL RESULT					
Team Name	1-16	17-32	33-48	49-64	Total
LAVAZZA	42	65	40	27	174
HINGE	21	30	32	34	117

somebody noticed.

"And still we have the third loser in clubs if the spades don't break" we were loudly thinking.

Then one of us yells: " I know ...I know...We can squeeze West if he has the fourth diamond and 5 hearts. We just play a diamond to the king, finesse hearts, ruff a diamond and then play clubs. East has to return spades (otherwise we will be able to ruff the clubs on the table) and so we play clubs again. After that East has to play spades again which we take in the hand and by playing all spades we can squeeze West on the last spade!"

"Very good", Cezary approves, "but on the third round of diamonds, the queen didn't appear" he says. "Is this significant?", he is asking.

Then, we start counting the points and quickly realize that because ♠Q didn't drop it has to be in East hand. Otherwise he wouldn't have enough points to open 1NT. So, West will not be squeezed because he doesn't have the fourth diamond. After a while, when we couldn't find the solution Bal showed us how to execute this unusual type of squeeze.

"You were in the right direction" he says "but after ♠Q didn't drop you should change your plan. You should play a heart to ace and ruff a small heart in your hand. Now, what East can do?", he asks. "There is no point to his ruffing or discarding ♠Q and so he discards a

small club. Then we play a small club, taken by East who has to play a spade. Otherwise we will be able to ruff the third club in the table", he continues. "Then we play the last heart from the table and what can the poor East do?" he is asking us laughing.

Even in this 4 card ending we still don't see it immediately (well, it was pretty late and a quite a few bottles of wine were emptied). But soon, we realize that East has no option but to discard the club honour clubs (there is no point to his ruffing or discarding ♠Q since declarer still has an entry to the table) and then after cashing the ♠A we exit with the small club establishing ♣J as the tenth trick.

Ah Bal, it becomes obvious to us why you are champion and we are not....

PS. The whole hand is below.

♠ x	♥ QT9	♠ xxx
♥ Kxxxx	♥ AQxx	♥ Jx
♦ T9x	♦ 8xxx	♦ AQxx
♣ xxxx	♣ xx	♣ AKQx
	♠ AKJxxx	
	♥ xx	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ Jxx	

<p>FINAL TABLE TALLY</p> <p>6901</p>
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