

10. Odd One Out

By Ron Klinger

The format of the Columbus Alt on-line tournament in place of the Vanderbilt Knock-Out Teams was a round-robin of 24-board matches, divided into 12-board segments.

The teams:

Blass	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
Spector	Vincent Demuy, John Hurd, John Kranyak, Warren Spector, Gavin Wolpert, Joel Woolbridge
Moss	Ishmael Del'Monte, Roger Lee, Eldad Ginossar, David Grainger, Brad Moss, Sylvia Moss
Upmark	Peter Bertheau, Per Ola Cullin, Simon Hult, Marion Michielsen, Fredrik Nyström, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark
Tulin	David Bakhshi, Alon Birman, Dror Padon, Ricco van Prooijen, Stan Tulin, Louk Verhees
Meltzer	Billy Cohen, Nikolay Demirev, Rose Meltzer, Ron Smith
Lavazza	Dennis Bilde, Norberto Bocchi, Philippe Cronier, Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa
Street	Thomas Bessis, Nic L'écuyer, Cédric Lorenzini, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon, Paul Street

After Day 1, the leaders were Lavazza 31.97 Victory Points, Street 25.44, Moss 23.53, Upmark 23.00.

Results on Day 2:

Round 3:

Lavazza 14.43 (+21 Imps) beat Spector 5.57
Blass 15.69 (+29) beat Street 4.31
Moss 15.24 (+26) beat Upmark 4.76
Tulin 18.90 (+58) beat Meltzer 1.10

Round 4:

Street 12.54 (+11) beat Lavazza 7.46
Tulin 15.97 (+31) beat Moss 4.03
Blass 10.50 (+2) beat Upmark 9.50
Spector 17.69 (+45) beat Meltzer 2.31

Standings after Round 4:

Team	Victory Points
Tulin	56.08
Lavazza	53.86
Blass	45.83
Moss	42.80
Street	42.29
Upmark	37.26
Spector	33.61
Meltzer	8.27

East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT ⁽¹⁾	?		
(1) 15-17			

What would you do as North with:

- ♠ A7
- ♥ KQ96
- ♦ AKQ10
- ♣ QJ2

This was Board 7 of Round 3:

East dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A7	
	♥ KQ96	
	♦ AKQ10	
	♣ QJ2	
West		East
♠ KQJ43		♠ 109652
♥ A108		♥ 4
♦ J9		♦ 732
♣ K108		♣ A973
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ J7532	
	♦ 8654	
	♣ 654	

West has only 14 HCP, but upgrading this hand to a 15-17 1NT is normal, given West has a 5-card suit and the hand includes two tens. One would expect North to double 1NT for penalties and that was the usual action by North. As you can see, North-South can make 4♥ (with careful play) and East-West are only one down in 4♠, a good example of the Law of Total Tricks: N-S 9 trumps, E-W 10 trumps. Total trumps: 19. Total tricks: 19

A different view for North is to pass 1NT and expect to take it down. The thinking goes: 'I have 21 points. West has 15-17. That leaves only 4 points shared between East and South. If I double 1NT, partner will remove the double because partner has such a weak hand. Better for me to pass and try to beat 1NT myself.' That was a solitary view and arose in this match:

LAVAZZA vs SPECTOR

SPECTOR North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Transfer to spades

North led ♦A. ♦K, ♦Q. West lost two diamonds, a spade and a club, +140.

LAVAZZA North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠!	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

(1) Transfer to spades

Declarer lost the same tricks, one down -200, 8 Imps to **LAVAZZA**.

Do you use transfers after a penalty double of 1NT? Many do not, since you want to be able to run to 2♣ or 2♦. Those who do still use transfers after 1NT : Double need other ways to escape to 2♣ or 2♦.

	North	
	♠ A7	
	♥ KQ96	
	♦ AKQ10	
	♣ QJ2	
West		East
♠ KQJ43		♠ 109652
♥ A108		♥ 4
♦ J9		♦ 732
♣ K108		♣ A973
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ J7532	
	♦ 8654	
	♣ 654	

BLASS vs STREET

STREET North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Transfer to spades

(2) Primarily takeout

West led the ♠K, taken by the ace. Declarer played ♥K, ducked, and the ♥Q. West won and continued with the ♠Q. South ruffed and played the ♣5: king – two – seven. West returned the ♠8, queen, ace, and as there was no club ruff, South had ten tricks, +620.

BLASS North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Declarer made nine tricks, –200 but +9 Imps.

MELTZER vs TULIN

TULIN North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
2♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Transfer to spades

(2) Takeout out

Ten tricks, North-South +170

How do you take South's bid of 3♥? Clearly it was intended as weak and North treated it as such. In this kind of auction, some use the Lebensohl approach. In reply to the double, 3♥ shows hearts and some useful values in context, say, ♥K-x-x-x instead of ♥J-x-x-x. With a terrible hand, South bids 2NT, asking the doubler to bid 3♣. South then removes 3♣ to 3♥ to show hearts and a really poor hand, such as the one South had.

	North	
	♠ A7	
	♥ KQ96	
	♦ AKQ10	
	♣ QJ2	
West		East
♠ KQJ43		♠ 109652
♥ A108		♥ 4
♦ J9		♦ 732
♣ K108		♣ A973
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ J7532	
	♦ 8654	
	♣ 654	

MELTZER North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Takeout

Good news, North-South reached 4♥. Bad news, South didn't make it. West led the ♠K, ace. Declarer played the ♥K. West won and continued with the ♠Q. South ruffed and, lacking sufficient entries, needed to play a club now in order to play a second club later if West ducked the first club.

Instead South continued with a heart to the queen. He then played ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q. West ruffed and South still had two clubs to lose, one light – 100 and –6 Imps (instead of +10 Imps for 4♥ making). North-South +590, +14 Imps.

MOSS vs UPMARK

MOSS North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Takeout

West led the ♠K, ace. Declarer played the ♥K, ducked, and the ♥Q, ducked, followed by ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q. He claimed ten tricks, via ruffing the ♠7 and playing a club, North-South +620

UPMARK North-South:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Declarer made nine tricks, –200 but +9 Imps.

*A handsome bridge player named Bert
Was known by the girls as a flirt!
His partner would bid
And just after she did
He'd wink twice and then blurt, 'Alert!'
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