

12. Last Match

By Ron Klinger

Teams in the Columbus Alt on-line tournament in place of the Vanderbilt Knock-Out 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

Standings after Round 6, with one round to go:

Team	Victory Points
Lavazza	87.34
Upmark	76.05
Blass	73.15
Tulin	70.19
Moss	60.10
Street	57.40
Spector	46.08
Meltzer	9.69

As it happened the last round pitted **LAVAZZA** vs **UPMARK**, placed first and second with one round to go, and **BLASS** vs **TULIN**, running third and fourth.

LAVAZZA vs **UPMARK**

LAVAZZA North-South:

Bd. 1. West dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ10	
	♥ A2	
	♦ A107	
	♣ Q6543	
West		East
♠ J96		♠ 7542
♥ QJ985		♥ 74
♦ QJ64		♦ 9852
♣ 7		♣ J102
	South	
	♠ K83	
	♥ K1063	
	♦ K3	
	♣ AK98	

After West passed, **LAVAZZA** (N-S) had a relay auction which started 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ (no major) : 2♠ (game-force relay: tell me more). South found North had five clubs, 0 or 3 key cards and the ♣Q and bid 7♣, which was unbeatable, N-S +1440. There were holdings for North where the grand slam would have failed. Such as a 3-3-2-5 pattern. At the other table:

UPMARK North-South:

West	North	East	South
2♥ ⁽¹⁾	2NT	Pass	4NT ⁽²⁾
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

(1) Weak, 5 or 6 hearts

(2) Quantitative

North made all the tricks, +940, but –11 Imps.

Like **LAVAZZA, BLASS** North-South also began 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ (no major) : 2♠ (game-force relay: tell me more) and bid to 7♣ (+1440). At the other table TULIN North-South bid 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ (no major) : 4NT (quantitative), 6NT, all pass, +1020 but –9 Imps.

In the other matches, the contracts were 6♣ +940 vs 6NT +1020, +2 Imps, and 3NT +520 vs 6♣ 940, +9 Imps.

Bd. 14: South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A92	
	♥ KJ76	
	♦ 9	
	♣ AK983	
West		East
♠ J106		♠ 87543
♥ A9432		♥ Q
♦ 32		♦ AKJ10
♣ 654		♣ 1072
	South	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ 1085	
	♦ Q87654	
	♣ QJ	

At each of the four tables where the four leading teams were playing, the contract was 3NT by South. In each case, one declarer succeeded and the other went one down.

LAVAZZA South was in 3NT after North opened 1♣ and East overcalled 1♦, no other East-West bidding. West led the ♦3: nine – king – five. East switched to the ♠7. South won with the king and ran the ♥10 to the ♥Q. East continued with the ♠5, taken by the ♠Q. South unblocked the ♣Q, ♣J and played a heart. With the ♦A marked with East from the auction, South had nine tricks, +400.

At the other table, **UPMARK** South was in 3NT after North opened 1♣ and East overcalled 1♠ ('Suit quality? We don't care about suit quality!'). South bid 2♣, showing diamonds, and West bid 2♠. North doubled, South bid 2NT and North 3NT, all pass. Given the choices, I'd prefer to overcall 1♦ than 1♠, second choice, Pass.

West led the ♠J. South won and ran the ♥10 to the ♥Q. East switched to the ♦10: queen! – two – nine. Double dummy, South can now make nine tricks via ♣Q and the ♠J, overtaking in dummy. South makes three spades, five clubs and the ♦Q.

This requires the ♣10 to come down doubleton or tripleton. South was not prepared to rely on that. South cashed ♠J, ♠Q, ♣Q and played the ♥8. West won and played his remaining diamond. East took three diamonds for one down, East-West +50 and 10 Imps to **LAVAZZA**.

BLASS vs TULIN

For **BLASS**, Nowosadski (S) – Kalita (N) also began Pass : Pass : 1♣ : 1♠, 2♣ (diamonds) : 2♠ and South ended in 3NT. West led ♠J, South won and ran the ♥10 to the ♥Q. East switched to the ♦J: queen! – three – nine. South cashed ♠J, ♠Q, ♣Q and exited with the ♦8: two – ♥7 – ♦10. East cashed ♦K, ♦A and declarer pitched the ♥J and ♥K from dummy. With no hearts left, East had to give the lead to dummy and South had nine tricks, +400.

	North	
	♠ A92	
	♥ KJ76	
	♦ 9	
	♣ AK983	
West		East
♠ J106		♠ 87543
♥ A9432		♥ Q
♦ 32		♦ AKJ10
♣ 654		♣ 1072
	South	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ 1085	
	♦ Q87654	
	♣ QJ	

TULIN North-South. With East-West passing throughout, the bidding went Pass : 1♣ : 1♠ (4+ diamonds), 2♣ : 2♦, 2♥ : 2NT, 3NT, all pass. West led the ♥2: six – queen – five. East switched first to the ♦J: four – three – nine and next to the ♠8: king – six – two. South cashed the ♣Q, ♣J, followed by the ♥10. West grabbed the ♥A and returned the ♦2. East took the ♦A, ♦K for one down, –50 and 10 Imps to **BLASS**.

In the other matches the results were 2♦ +110 vs 2♦ +110, no swing, and 2♦ +90 vs 3NT –50, for a 4-Imp swing.

Round 7 results:

Lavazza 14.92 (+24) beat Upmark 4.08
 Blass 13.72 (+17) beat Tulin 6.28
 Spector 11.23 (+5) beat Moss 8.77
 Meltzer 11.23 (+5) beat Street 8.77

Final standings:

Team	Victory Points
Lavazza	102.26
Blass	86.87
Upmark	81.13
Tulin	76.47
Moss	68.87
Street	68.63
Spector	57.31
Meltzer	18.46

*When pard mentions the Grosvenor Coup,
 Bridge purists get into a stew.
 “That refers to a gambit,
 It’s not a coup, dammit,
 And it’s ethically dubious, too.”
 (ACBL Bulletin, March 2020)*

In fact, there is nothing ethically wrong with the Grosvenor Gambit.