

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:

Blass	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
De Botton	Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes, Artur Malinowski
Hungary	Miklos Dumbovich, Gal Hegedus, Csaba Szabo, Balasz Szegedi, Gabor Winkler
Uppmark	Peter Bertheau, Per Ola Cullin, Simon Hult, Marion Michielsen, Fredrik Nyström, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark
Meltzer	Rose Meltzer, Nikolay Demirev, Bartosz Chmurski, Piotr Nawrocki, Piotr Tuczynski, Piotr Wiankowski
Milner	Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland
Street	Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski
Team NL	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
Zhao	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 ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♥ ⁽²⁾
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?