

Sunday, June 18, 1989

Worldwide Bridge Contest Results and Highlights

by Richard Pavlicek
Special to the Sun-Sentinel

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

<p>♠ J 9 8 5 ♥ 10 9 8 5 ♦ K 6 ♣ Q 8 4</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> ♠ 7 2 ♥ A J 6 3 2 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> ♦ 3 ♣ A K 10 9 7 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> ♠ K ♥ K Q 4 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> ♦ J 10 9 8 7 2 ♣ 6 5 3 </div> </div>	<p>♠ A Q 10 6 4 3 ♥ 7 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ J 2</p>	
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	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W S </div> </div>		
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	West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
	Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
	Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
	Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Opening Lead: ♥10

The Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest held on Friday, June 9, drew about 100,000 entrants at more than 1,000 sites around the globe. All participants played 24 deals, each with predetermined scoring based on a 100 top.

The winner? A Polish pair scored 79.17 percent. An Australian pair was second with 78.75; Canada (Nova Scotia) was third with 78.17. It is rare to score over 75 percent in a bridge event, so these scores suggest to me a great imbalance among the skills of the players. But that's easy for any United States player to say – we got beat.

Richard Waugh and Melba Pickvale of Ft. Lauderdale came up with one of the best local scores, 68.9 percent. Waugh demonstrated some sparkling technique on today's deal (No. 8 in the booklet), winning 12 tricks with no help from the defense. His accurate play punched a hole in the analysis of Omar Sharif, who stated that only 11 tricks could be made. Oh, well; I'd like to see Richard Waugh play the role of Dr. Zhivago.

Waugh, South, became declarer in four spades after an auction that appeared to be a misfit. It is instructive to note the order of suit bidding: North's hearts-clubs-clubs indicated five-five shape; South's spades-diamonds-spades indicated six-four shape. This latter knowledge allowed North to raise with a doubleton.

West led the heart 10, won by the ace, then a spade was led; {king}, ace. East's card was an omen of the bad trump break, and Waugh took full advantage. He continued with a club to the ace; heart ruff; club king (no finesse); then another heart ruff, felling the king. Next came the

diamond ace; diamond ruff; heart jack (discarding a diamond); and a club ruff as West helplessly followed suit.

At this juncture, South remained with the queen-10 in spades and a diamond; West held J-9-8 in spades. Declarer simply led his diamond which West had to ruff. The forced spade return gave declarer the last two tricks.

Richard Pavlicek of Fort Lauderdale is a six-time North American bridge champion and freelance columnist.