



SPECTOR v LAVAZZA

Board 16 ♠ 8
 Dealer West ♥ Q J 9 6 3
 E-W Vul ♦ 8 2
 ♣ K 7 5 3 2

♠ Q J 10 7 3 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ A Q 10	N W E S	♠ A 9 6 4 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ Q 7 5 ♣ 8 6 4
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♠ K 5 2 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ A J 10 9 6 ♣ J 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
1 NT	All pass		

1 NT by West

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1 NT ¹	All pass		
1. 14-16			

1 NT by West

Both West's opened systemically 1NT, in theory landing on the wrong spot, but in practice a) the contract made on the same, wrong defence and b) a 1♠ opening bid might well have let the opponents free to bid their lay-down 3♥ partial.

The sequence of play was the same: heart lead ducked, heart continuation and spade finesse. South won, and had to switch to club to get to seven tricks before declarer, but both Madala and Spector continued with a heart. Flat at 90 apiece.

Board 17

Dealer North
None Vul

♠ A 10 9 8 7
♥ J 10 7 5
♦ 7
♣ Q 7 3

♠ —
♥ K 8
♦ J 10 8 4 3 2
♣ K J 8 6 4

	N		E
W			
	S		

♠ J 5 4 2
♥ Q 9 3
♦ A K 9 6
♣ 10 2

♠ K Q 6 3
♥ A 6 4 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A 9 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
2 NT ¹	3 ♣ ²	5 ♦	All pass

¹minors²majors

5 ♦ by East

Lead: ♠ K

Made 5 — EW +400

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 NT!
Pass	3 ♥ ²	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

¹both majors, weak²longer spades, minimum

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ 4

Made 4 — NS +420

Bilde's opening bid struck gold when Hurd did not feel like to get involved. Madala would have been hardly tested had Hurd led a diamond, and his partner continued the suit: you need to play almost double dummy to get home. However, the lead was a small club, and with hearts as they were, ten tricks rolled home easily enough.

In the other room Duboin did not stay out, and he also struck gold: 5 ♦ were lay-down - you only need to guess clubs, and Cronier duly did it. Kudos to Wolpert for not having doubled

despite knowing that his side was holding the majority of the deck (well, he just saved an IMP, yet, beautiful decision). Lavazza scored 13 IMPs.

Board 18 ♠ J 9 7
 Dealer East ♥ J 10
 N-S Vul ♦ K 9 7
 ♣ 10 8 6 5 4

♠ K 8 2 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ 10 8 6 5 3 ♣ 3	N W E S	♠ 10 5 ♥ 7 6 5 2 ♦ A Q ♣ K Q J 9 7	
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♠ A Q 6 4 3
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ J 4 2
 ♣ A 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
		1 ♣	1 ♠
Dbl	2 ♠ ¹	3 ♥	All pass

1. weakest raise

3 ♥ by East

Lead: ♦ 2

Made 3 — EW +140

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		1 ♣	Dbl
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	All pass	

3 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ 3

Made 3 — NS +140

Lavazza levelled the match when in his 3 ♠ partial Madala sprinkled a bit of magic and, more important, Hurd first took the bait, then missed the second opportunity to beat the contract.

Against Madala, West led his singleton club, which went to the seven and ace. Lacking communications, South then proceeded to table a small heart, and when Hurd ducked it, he had overcome the first hurdle. Dummy's jack scored, and ♥A and a heart ruff followed. Had Madala cashed the ♠A and continued the suit, the defenders would have been able to force him, preventing a diamond trick, so he correctly ran the ♠J. Hurd had only to win it and continue with a diamond to beat the contract (there are different ways to achieve it) but he

fatally ducked, and Madala made no mistake: played another spade, winning with his ace, and guessed diamonds. +140 went along with the same amount coming from the other room: Spector did not compete, and 3♥ were just lay-down. 7 IMPs and 47 apiece.

Board 19 ♠ K 7 6
 Dealer South ♥ —
 E-W Vul ♦ K Q J 8 7 3
 ♣ A K 8 5

♠ A Q 4 3		N		♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ Q 5 2	W		E	♥ K 10 7 6 4
♦ A 9				♦ 6 4
♣ J 10 4 3		S		♣ Q 9

♠ J 9
 ♥ A J 9 8 3
 ♦ 10 5 2
 ♣ 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
			Pass
1 ♣	1 ♦	Dbl	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
All pass			

3 ♦ by North
 Lead: ♠ 5
 Made 4 — NS +130

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
1 ♣	1 ♦	Dbl	1 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♦	All pass	

3 ♦ by North
 Lead: ♠ 5
 Made 4 — NS +130

Both teams missed an opportunity as the lie of the cards makes 3NT unbeatable, but it's not at all easy to bid. Flat at 130 apiece.

here it would have been beaten by a spade lead thanks to the bad trump split, even guessing to finesse dummy's ♣8. You don't need any guess in game, however, and Spector scored +600 losing 3 IMPs in the process.

Board 21 ♠ K 10 8 7 5 4
 Dealer North ♥ 3 2
 N-S Vul ♦ 9 7 6
 ♣ 8 6

♠ Q 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ A K J 10 5	N W E S	♠ 9 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ A K J 5 ♣ Q 7 4 3 2
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♠ A J 6 3
 ♥ 10 8 7 5 4
 ♦ 10 3 2
 ♣ 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	All pass

1. natural game force
2. short spades

6 ♣ by East

Lead: ♥ 4

Made 6 — EW +920

Board 22

Dealer East
E-W Vul
♠ 9 4
♥ K 8 6 5 4
♦ J 8 3
♣ J 4 2

♠ 10 6 5		N		♠ K J 8 3 2
♥ J 10 3	W		E	♥ A Q 2
♦ K 9 4 2		S		♦ A Q 10 6
♣ A K 8				♣ 5

♠ A Q 7
♥ 9 7
♦ 7 5
♣ Q 10 9 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>

		1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by East

Lead: ♦ 7

Made 5 — EW +650

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>

		1 ♠	Pass
1 NT!	Pass	2 ♣!	Pass
2 ♦! ¹	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. 8+

4 ♠ by East

Lead: ♥ 9

Made 5 — EW +650

Two flat boards followed: an easy enough 6♣, where you only need to find the spade control, and a dull 4♠, then Lavazza pulled away.

Board 23 ♠ A 8 3
 Dealer South ♥ 7
 Both Vul ♦ A J 10 8
 ♣ A J 10 9 7

♠ J 5 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 2	N W E S	♠ K Q 7 6 4 2 ♥ K 5 4 3 ♦ 2 ♣ 5 3
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♠ 10 9
 ♥ A J 10 9 2
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ Q 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	All pass	Pass

3 ♣ by North
 Lead: ♦ 2
 Made 6 — NS +170

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	All pass	Pass

3 NT by North
 Lead: ♦ 2
 Made 4 — NS +630

It's not clear what went wrong in the Open Room. Perhaps Wolpert thought his 3♣ to be forcing, regardless of his partner being passed hand, or Spector simply didn't think he had enough strength to take another step. That is, the American-Canadian combination languished in a partial where game was excellent, and they scored a disappointing +170.

In the Closed room, Bilde made a practical jump to the closest game when his partner's reopening bid came back to him. The contract is unbeatable, but became a piece of cake after the diamond lead . Ten tricks and 10 IMPs to Lavazza.

Board 24

Dealer West
None Vul
♠ J
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ K 9 6
♣ Q J 7 6 4

♠ K 10 7 5	N	♠ 8 3 2
♥ 7 2	W	♥ K J 8
♦ A Q 7 4	E	♦ J 8 5 3 2
♣ 10 8 2	S	♣ K 5

♠ A Q 9 6 4
♥ Q 6 5 4
♦ 10
♣ A 9 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♥ 2

Made 5 — NS +450

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1 ♣!	Pass	1 ♥! ¹
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦! ²
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

1. ♠
2. gf

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ 2

Made 4 — NS +420

Spector recovered 1 IMP when Duboin led a heart against the same, obvious 4♥, while Hurd picked a diamond. Dull otherwise.

Board 25 ♠ K 6 5 4
 Dealer North ♥ 3
 E-W Vul ♦ A 6 4 2
 ♣ Q 7 4 2

♠ A J 2		N		♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ A 4 2	W		E	♥ K Q 10 8 7 5
♦ 10 9 7				♦ 5
♣ A J 10 6		S		♣ K 8

♠ 10 7
 ♥ J 9 6
 ♦ K Q J 8 3
 ♣ 9 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥ ¹	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

1. 6 hearts, 4 spades, minimum

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♦ K

Made 5 — EW +650

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣! ¹	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥!	Pass	3 NT!	Pass
4 ♥ ²	All pass		

1. 2+♣

2. min

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♦ K

Made 5 — EW +650

Board 26 ♠ 4 3
 Dealer East ♥ A K Q 9 8 7
 Both Vul ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ J 6

♠ 7 5 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A J 2 ♣ A K 9 8 2	N W E S	♠ A K 10 6 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ Q 4 3
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♠ Q J 9 8
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ Q 9 8 3
 ♣ 10 7 5

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♣	All pass		

5 ♣ by West

Lead: ♥ K

Down 1 — EW -100

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	All pass		
1. 2+♣			

5 ♣ by West

Lead: ♥ K

Down 1 — EW -100

Two rather normal boards followed: an easy four hearts where eleven tricks were both the limit and lay-down, and a five clubs which failed on an trump promotion in one room (three rounds of heart), and on the bad spade break in the other (two rounds of heart only, and a

diamond switch, but with spades 4-2 meant Duboin didn't have a parking spot for his heart loser). Flat at 650 and -100 apiece, respectively. Then Spector started a surge.

Board 27 ♠ Q J 9 3
 Dealer South ♥ A K Q J
 None Vul ♦ K 10
 ♣ A 10 8

♠ A 4			♠ K 10 6 2
♥ 8 5 4 3	N	E	♥ 7 6
♦ 8 6 5 2	W	S	♦ A Q J
♣ J 9 2			♣ Q 7 4 3

♠ 8 7 5
 ♥ 10 9 2
 ♦ 9 7 4 3
 ♣ K 6 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
			Pass

Pass 2 NT All pass

2 NT by North

Lead: ♣ 3

Made 3 — NS +150

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass

Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT

All pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 7

Down 1 — NS -50

Madala trusted his partner's card play more than Spector did or, simply, he followed the old saying: if you can make eight tricks with my cards, than a ninth is possible. However, as usual the hand's limit was seven tricks, though Bilde was allowed to make eight, and Wolpert even nine.

In the Open room, Cronier picked a small club to lead - not the best, but not fatal yet - but on the second round decided to cover declarer's ♠Q with his king, so giving away the only remaining chance to hold declarer to seven tricks, and worse, he continued with the ♣Q, Wolpert's task became just easy, and he scored nine tricks when Duboin, in with the ♠A, entirely reasonably failed to find the diamond continuation, switching to his last club

instead. Eventually Cronier was end played in spades and forced to give a trick to Wolpert's ♦K. +150.

In the Closed room Wooldridge opted for a passive heart lead. Bilde ran all his four tricks in the suit (a spade and a club discarded by East), then tabled the ♠J. Wooldridge won that - probably afraid of being end-played on a third round of the suit, had Bilde held the ♠AQ - and returned the suit, so establishing Bilde eight's tricks. Hurd continued with a low diamond, and declarer's fate was sealed - -50 and 5 IMPs to Spector, now close to within 7 IMPs.

Spector recaptured the lead in a rather odd way: bidding and making 4♥ in one room, vulnerable, and playing 3♣ down four in the other, not vulnerable.

Board 28

Dealer West	N-S Vul	♠ K 9 8 7 6 5			
		♥ A J 10			
		♦ 10 7 3			
		♣ 10			
			N		
♠ Q J 10 4			W	E	♠ A 3 2
♥ 8 6					♥ K 7 3
♦ 9 6 5 4 2			S		♦ Q J
♣ Q 2					♣ K J 9 8 4
					♠ —
					♥ Q 9 5 4 2
					♦ A K 8
					♣ A 7 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
Pass	Pass	1 NT	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥

All pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ Q

Made 4 — NS +620

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2 ♠	3 ♣	All pass

3 ♣ by East

Lead: ♦ A

Down 4 — EW -200

The normal-looking 2♠ Bilde's weak opening bid in fact cut his side out of the auction (had Wooldridge passed, so too would have Madala probably). There was nothing sensible that Madala could do over 3♣, and that was the end (asking Bilde to balance with a double is way too much). Madala led a diamond and switched to a small club, then managed to repeatedly end-play declarer. +200.

In the other room Spector-Wolpert found an easy enough way to game, and Spector brought it home on a cross-ruff after the ♠Q lead. Actually, even on a trump lead declarer cannot go wrong, coming to four trump tricks in hand, two club ruffs in dummy, and four top tricks. 9 IMPs to Spector, ahead by 2. But the pendulum swung back immediately to the Lavazza side.

Board 29

Dealer North
Both Vul

	♠ K J 8		
	♥ J 9 7 2		
	♦ A 7		
	♣ A 10 8 2		
♠ 9 3	N	E	♠ A Q 10 7 6
♥ A 8 6 4	W	S	♥ K 3
♦ K J 9 5 2			♦ 4
♣ 5 4			♣ K J 9 6 3
	♠ 5 4 2		
	♥ Q 10 5		
	♦ Q 10 8 6 3		
	♣ Q 7		

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♠	All pass

1 ♠ by East

Lead: ♣ Q

Made 5 — EW +200

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	All pass

3 ♣ by East

Lead: ♣ 7

Down 1 — EW -100

In the Open room, Duboin went passive, and Cronier found himself in a comfortable spot, which became even softer after the ♣Q lead, and Wolpert's ♣A. One club ruff was enough to establish the suit, and with spades as they were Cronier scored no less than 200.

In the Closed room, where Hurd had decided to keep the auction alive on his partner's 1♠ overcall, Madala got off with the ♣7 lead, which ran to East's ♣9. Wooldridge was up with a chance to make ten tricks: heart to dummy's ace, three rounds of spades finessing the queen on the first and ruffing the third, heart to the king and the ♣K. However, he led a small spade - still good enough to fulfill his contract - but when Bilde won and continued with a heart, he ran it to dummy's ace and, fatally, played a club. Though he guessed to put up his king, he had to lose two clubs, two spades and diamond. 7 IMPs to Lavazza, who stuck their neck ahead by 5 IMPs, and when the final board was a boring 4♠ up one, it fixed the stanza's score on 40-15, 67-62 overall.

Board 30 ♠ 10 9 8
 Dealer East ♥ Q J 9 7
 None Vul ♦ K Q
 ♣ K 8 7 3

♠ J 7 2		N		♠ Q 3
♥ 8 6 5		W	E	♥ 10 3 2
♦ A 6 4				♦ J 10 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 9 6 4		S		♣ 10 2

♠ A K 6 5 4
 ♥ A K 4
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ A J 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>	<i>Spector</i>
		Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT ¹
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

1. 5 spades

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♦ J

Made 5 — NS +450

Board 30 ♠ 10 9 8
 Dealer East ♥ Q J 9 7
 None Vul ♦ K Q
 ♣ K 8 7 3

♠ J 7 2	N	♠ Q 3
♥ 8 6 5	W	♥ 10 3 2
♦ A 6 4	E	♦ J 10 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 9 6 4	S	♣ 10 2

♠ A K 6 5 4
 ♥ A K 4
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ A J 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠! ¹
Pass	4 ♥!	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			
1. 5 ♠			

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ 6

Made 5 — NS +450