

SPINGOLD 2019
 QUARTER FINAL
 (STANZA 3/4)

SPECTOR v LAVAZZA

Much blood was spilled in the during the first five boards of stanza three: as many as 58 IMPs, with Lavazza having the lion's share of them.

The first deal saw the leaders extending their advantage, on a deal which proved just too awkward for both sides. Bilde-Madala handled the troublesome collection better than their counterparts, landing in a spot that proved itself safe.

Board 1

Dealer North ♠ A K
 None Vul ♥ J 7
 ♦ A Q J 10 8 7 2
 ♣ A 4

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

♠ Q 10 6 5 3 2
 ♥ Q 9 8 5 4 3
 ♦ 5
 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
	1♦	2♣	2♠
5♣	6♦	All pass	
6♦ by North			
Lead: ♣ Q			
Down 2 — NS -100			

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♦!	2♣	Pass
2♦	Dbl	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	All pass	
5♦ by North			
Lead: ♣ J			
Made 5 — N2♠S +400			

I like Madala's decision to pass first time round better than Hurd's 2♠ call. Hurd signalled a much stronger hand, so you can hardly blame Wooldridge for his jump to the impossible slam. In the other room, Madala's 4♣ was clearly intended as showing his hand shape, but the message did not reach Bilde, who jumped to game in his own suit thereby missing the laydown "four-in-either-major" contract (actually, you make eleven tricks by guessing hearts). Five diamonds required a non-diamond lead, and a lot of luck after that. Kranyak did not have a realistic chance of finding the killing lead - you need to be a magician to do it - and Bilde's luck was in: he ran the lead to his ace, unblocked ♠AK, ruffed a club and cashed the ♠Q pitching a heart. Kranyak ruffed it, but at the expense of his trump trick. Bilde eventually cashed the ♦A and breathed a sigh of relief when the king popped up. +400 paired nicely with +100 (Wooldridge, probably discouraged, ruffed the same ♣Q lead and ended up two down, losing one extra IMP in the process) for an 11 IMPs gain. Lavazza was leading by 16 IMPs, but soon all their lead, plus a single IMP, would be swallowed in one juicy bite.

Board 2		♠ 10 6 4 3		
Dealer East		♥ A 10 6 5		
N-S Vul		♦ A 4 3		
		♣ A 5		
♠ J 2		N	♠ 9 8 7	
♥ K 4 2	W	E	♥ J 9 8	
♦ 9 8 5 2			♦ Q J 10 7 6	
♣ 9 7 6 3	S		♣ 10 2	
		♠ A K Q 5		
		♥ Q 7 3		
		♦ K		
		♣ K Q J 8 4		
West	North	East	South	
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	
		Pass	1 ♣	
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT!	
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠	
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♣	
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	7 ♠	
All pass				
7 ♠ by South				
Lead: ♠ 2				
Made 7 — NS +2210				

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		2 ♦	Dbl
4 ♦	Dbl	Pass	4 ♠

All pass
4 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ 6
Made 7 — NS +710

Kranyak's weak two opening was incredibly successful. After Demuy's pre-emptive raise both opponents were caught in the no man's land. Madala was strong, but looking at one solitary ace, while Bilde was looking at the other three without stuffing. Bilde could do no better, but an inspired Madala, (*no criticism mind*), might have risked going overboard in order to bid 5NT, inviting his partner to pick a slam. Had he done so, Bilde could have bid 6♦ to offer a major, and show extra strength, but bidding seven is way too much to ask, and resting in six would have only saved 4 IMPs. All in theory, because Madala, sensibly enough, contented himself with 4♠ and played there.

Given free rein, Hurd-Wooldridge bid competently to the top spot, and when trumps behaved Spector had 17 IMPs and took the lead. However, that lead did not survive the next hand.

Board 3

Dealer South	♠ A K 3		
E-W Vul	♥ A J 5 4		
	♦ K J 9 5 4		
	♣ 10		

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

		♠ 9 5	
		♥ Q 10 7	
		♦ Q 10 7	
		♣ K Q 9 3 2	

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

3 ♣ by North
Lead: ♠ J
Made 4 — NS +130

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
1 ♠	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

All pass
 3 NT by North
 Lead: ♠ J
 Made 3 — NS +400

This time a light opening bid backfired when Bilde picked a rather unorthodox, though practical 1NT overcall, and Madala had an automatic raise to the unassailable NT game. In the other room, Wooldridge took a pessimistic view of his cards, and NS landed in a partial despite their combined 25 HCP, double stops everywhere and promising suits. 7 IMPs to Lavazza. More were to come immediately afterwards.

Board 4

Dealer West	♠ A		
Both Vul	♥ K Q 4		
	♦ 8 7 6 5 2		
	♣ 10 9 5 3		

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

	♠ 10 6		
	♥ 9 8 3		
	♦ A K Q J		
	♣ K 6 4 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by West
 Lead: ♥ Q
 Made 4 — EW +620

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	All pass		
2 ♠ by West			
Lead: ♦ 2			
Made 3 — EW +140			

Demuy picked the wrong moment to upgrade his hand to the partnerships nominal 14-16 NT: the cards fitted perfect, and more importantly, North had a normal enough heart lead and the ♣K was with South. That said, Bilde led a diamond, and Madala switched to a heart - the only killing defence against ten tricks so Demuy did not regret staying in a partial, but Lavazza had 10 IMPs. More were next to come the same way.

Board 5

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♦!	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass
4 ♠ by West			
Lead: ♥ 6			
Made 5 — EW +450			

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠!	Pass	2 NT	Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 4 ♠ All pass
 4 ♠ by West
 Lead: ♣ K
 Down 1 — EW -50

Wooldridge's heart lead did not exactly paralyse Sementa: he ran it to his jack, finessed dummy's ♥Q and finessed in spades. Eleven easy tricks.

In the other room, Bilde also failed to find the killing diamond lead, but Demuy gave him a second chance when he won the ♣K lead and, instead of playing on trumps, he played a second club. Bilde duly switched to a diamond, which Madala won and played a second round. Demuy was not dead yet: he could have still made his contract by pitching a diamond on dummy's ♣9, losing the spade finesse and eventually finessing dummy's ♥Q. That line wins whenever the ♥K is onside, or the ♠K is doubleton onside. However, Demuy talked himself into an immediate spade finesse, which would have been a winner with the ♠K of spades onside, whichever its length (you make even with spades 5-1, if the ♠9 falls), and ran into a fatal diamond ruff. 11 IMPs to Lavazza, to end a string of 28 unanswered IMPs.

Spector stopped the bleeding by recording a small swing in the next hand.

Board 6 ♠ A 8 5 3 2
 Dealer East ♥ J 7 3 2
 E-W Vul ♦ J
 ♣ K Q 10

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

♠ J 9 6
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ A K Q 10 9 7
 ♣ 7 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
All pass			
2 ♦ by South			
Lead: ♦ 5			
Made 3 — NS +110			

West	North	East	South
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Demuy Bilde Kranyak Madala

Pass 1 NT!¹

Pass 2 ♣ Pass 2 ♦

Pass 2 ♥! Pass 3 ♦

All pass

1. 10-11

3 ♦ by South

Lead: ♦ 2

Down 1 — NS -50

Madala, sensibly enough, did not pick one of the majors, as offered by his partner (2♠ would have been an easy make, however), and found himself in a spot where he needed to guess clubs. He didn't, and lost 4 IMPs (Hurd did, but it didn't matter).

Board 7 ♠ 4 3 2
 Dealer South ♥ K J 2
 Both Vul ♦ 9 6
 ♣ Q 10 8 4 3

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>

Pass

Pass Pass 1 ♦ 1 ♠

Dbl Pass 2 ♥ Pass

4 ♥ All pass

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♣ 6

Down 1 — EW -100

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	4 ♥	All pass

4 ♥ by East
Lead: ♣ 6
Down 1 — EW -100

Board 8 ♠ K Q J 9 8 2
Dealer West ♥ 10 5 3
None Vul ♦ J
 ♣ K 4 2

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

♠ 10 7 3
♥ K 9 7 6
♦ A 7 6
♣ 10 9 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
Pass	2 ♠	3 ♦	3 ♠
Dbl	Rdbl	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	All pass

5 ♦ by East
Lead: ♠ 3
Made 5 — EW +400

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2 ♠	3 ♦	3 ♠
Dbl	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	All pass		

5 ♦ by East
Lead: ♠ 3
Made 5 — EW +400

Two flat boards followed, but if you can call number 8 dull, the same does not apply to 7, where both South had to find the not so obvious club lead away of their king to beat the same 4♥ contract. Nicely done Madala and Hurd, and especially the Argentinian-Italian, whose partner had supported spades.

Board 9

Dealer North ♠ K 6
 E-W Vul ♥ K Q 9 6 5
 ♦ K J 10 4
 ♣ 6 4

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

♠ A Q J 7
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ A 7 6 5
 ♣ K Q 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

3 NT by South
 Lead: ♠ 5
 Made 3 — NS +400

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦!	Pass	3 NT

All pass
 3 NT by South
 Lead: ♣ 3
 Made 4 — NS +430

Thank to the more favourable lead of a club, Madala could have scored eleven tricks in his NT game, but he played super safely and held himself to ten, which was enough for an IMP after Hurd received the much less helpful spade lead and misguessed diamonds.

Two blows were in sight, a mild one to Spector, and a heavy one to Lavazza.

Board 10 ♠ A 6 4 2
 Dealer East ♥ 3
 Both Vul ♦ Q J 5 3
 ♣ 10 7 6 2

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	

2 ♠ by North
 Lead: ♦ A
 Down 2 — NS -200

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣!
Pass	2 ♦!	Dbl	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦!	Pass	3 ♠!
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

3 NT by North
 Lead: ♣ 5
 Down 5 — NS -500

I'm pretty sure there's something wrong in the BBO record, because I cannot believe Wooldridge bid 2 ♠ of his own volition. Either 2 ♥ promised spade support, and an alert is missing, or Hurd bid 2 ♠ himself. Either option is possible. As it was, 2 ♠ was a one-trick-worse partial than 2 ♥, and drifted two off instead of one.

In the other room, both Lavazza boys were overly optimistic. First Madala, who stretched to show a 16+ hand with six hearts and three spades, and then Bilde cooperated showing 8+ (systemically he didn't have a better option) over his partner's Gazzilli opening. Bottom line, they ended up in an awful spot, and the opponents rubbed salt into the wound with a

merciless defence, which extracted all the possible tricks. The club lead went to West's jack, and a diamond came back, to the jack and king. Another club was won by dummy's ace, and a third round of the suit was won by West. Demuy tabled the $\spadesuit 8$, ducked all around, and another diamond through South followed. When the dust settled down, Bilde was down five, and 7 IMPs went to Spector. But the cheers of Spector's supporters's were then immediately silenced. I offer you the chance to do better than Hurd. Here are your cards and the auction:

\spadesuit 5 4 3
 \heartsuit Q 7 5 3
 \diamondsuit 9 8 2
 \clubsuit 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
			Pass
2 \spadesuit^1	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 \clubsuit^2	Pass	3 \spadesuit^3	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

1. weak two
2. a four cards side suit
3. not forcing

3 NT by East

Hurd picked a heart, but only a diamond would have beaten Bocchi, because here is the full layout:

Board 11	\spadesuit A 10 8		
Dealer South	\heartsuit 10 8		
None Vul	\diamondsuit K J 10 7 3		
	\clubsuit A 10 5		
\spadesuit Q J 9 6 2		N	\spadesuit K 7
\heartsuit A 2		W	\heartsuit K J 9 6 4
\diamondsuit Q 4		E	\diamondsuit A 6 5
\clubsuit J 8 6 2		S	\clubsuit K Q 4
	\spadesuit 5 4 3		
	\heartsuit Q 7 5 3		
	\diamondsuit 9 8 2		
	\clubsuit 9 7 3		

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 NT ¹	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

1. 12-14

3 NT by West

Lead: ♦ J

Down 2 — EW -100

In the other room Bilde was on lead, and despite having given away a trick with his diamond lead, declarer had to go through two black aces to come to the requisite number of tricks, and Bilde was known to hold them both. So, Kranyak dislodged the ♠A, then tried his luck in hearts. It was not in: two down and 11 IMPs to Lavazza.

Board 12

Dealer West

N-S Vul

♠ J 9 4			
♥ A K Q 6			
♦ J 10			
♣ J 9 8 4			
♠ K Q 8 7 3			♠ 2
♥ 7 4 3 2			♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ —			♦ 8 7 6 5 3
♣ K 10 6 2			♣ A Q 7
			♠ A 10 6 5
			♥ J
			♦ A K Q 9 4 2
			♣ 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
All pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♣ 2			
Made 5 — NS +660			

West	North	East	South
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<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1 ♣!	Pass	1 ♠!
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT

All pass
 3 NT by South
 Lead: ♥ 2
 Made 5 — NS +660

Board 12 was not relevant: eleven easy tricks in an equally easy 3NT, then Spector started a comeback.

Board 13

♠ A 9 7 5 4 3			
♥ K 9 2			
♦ Q 10 6			
♣ 4			

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

♠ J 6
♥ A 10 8 6 3
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ 8 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Dbf	2 ♦! ¹	Dbf	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
4 ♣	All pass		

1. good heart raise

4 ♣ by East
 Lead: ♠ J
 Down 1 — EW -100

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥

All pass
3 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ K
Down 1 — NS -100

Personally, I almost never overcall with a four card suit, but I have some sympathy for Demuy's choice here, provided his partnership is able to handle such situations. As it was, the subsequent auction was such as to convince Kranyak to keep silent, and clubs got lost. Madala guessed diamonds, but Kranyak held on to all of his diamonds until the end, and 3♠ drifted one off.

In the other room Sementa's double had the merit to find clubs, and also the demerit to find clubs, because competing was reasonable, but proved to be wrong. 4♣ was down in top tricks, and Spector won 5 IMPs.

Board 14 ♠ 7 4
Dealer East ♥ A Q J 2
None Vul ♦ A Q 7 3 2
 ♣ 10 5

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

♠ J 9
♥ 10 7 3
♦ J 9 8 6 5
♣ Q 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by West
Lead: ♣ 10
Made 5 — EW +450

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass
4 ♠ by West			
Lead: ♠ 7			
Made 5 — EW +450			

After a dull 4♠, flat at 450 apiece, Spector ended the stanza with a huge pick-up to close within a manageable distance.

Board 15

Dealer South
N-S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	4 ♦	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	
4 ♥ by North			
Lead: ♦ 10			
Made 4 — NS +620			

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			1 NT
3 ♣	4 ♣ ¹	4 ♦	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♥	All pass	

1. Majors

5 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ 10

Down 1 — NS -100

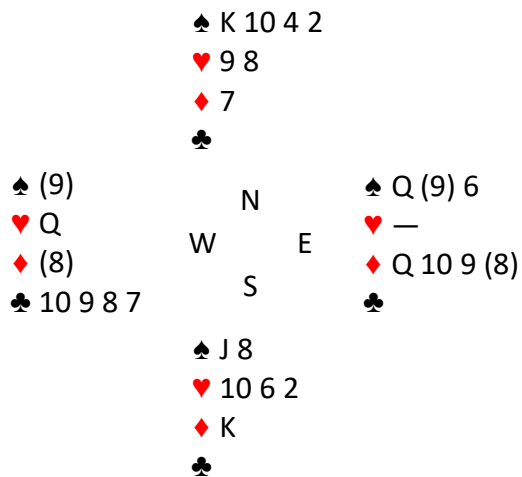
Wooldridge did not know about the huge fit, and Hurd's hand was too flat to move past game. An easy +620, since Wooldridge, unaware of the club distribution, did not have the necessary clues to land eleven tricks.

In the other room, you will see a very rare bird: Madala's inaccuracy, which cost him dearly.

Bilde had reasons to try for slam and, in fact 6♥, though bad, has some play. However, Madala was at the helm of 5♥, and had to find a way home after the ♣J lead. He won, and received very bad news when he tabled a heart towards his king. When he ruffed a club, East's king fell, so South had a rather clear picture of West's hand: seven clubs, three hearts, and either two spades and one diamond, or the opposite (East could not hold nine diamonds to the AQ). Reasoning that West might have led a diamond from Qx, but not from Ax - (because of Madala's diamond cue-bid), declarer was confident of finding the ♦A on his left, so he played immediately a diamond to his jack. However, he missed a chance to play the hand at 100%, and when he later misguessed, he ended up down one. Let's see: Demuy won the ♦A and returned the ♥Q, which ran to South's ace. To come home, Madala had to cash the ♣Q, the ♦K and ♠AK before ending playing West, forcing him to concede a ruff and discard. However, he had to decide whether West had started with a singleton diamond or a doubleton. When he reasoned that East, at favourable vulnerability holding an eight card suit and some club support, might have bid more than 4♦, he went for the latter, and finished down one: Demuy ruffed the ♦K and played a spade. Now let's notice the moment declarer ruffed a club in dummy:

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

Had Madala cashed the ♠A before finessing in diamonds, he would have spared himself the fatal guess. Here is the position he would have reached:



At that point South plays a spade and if a) the situation is the real one, he wins in dummy, cashes the ♦K and West will be eventually thrown in, or b) if West started with one spade and two diamonds, he cannot ruff profitably, but declarer wins, cashes the ♦K and throws him in.

That is, Spector won 12 IMPs, reducing Lavazza's margin to a manageable, 11 IMPs lead: 118-107.