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DAILY BULLETIN O

WELCOME TO MADEIRA 2007

10th International Bridge Festival Madeira Funchal, November 5-11, 2007

Welcome!

Welcome to the beautiful island of Madeira.

The CS Madeira Atlantic Resort & Sea Spa is ready for you.

We are now about to start this year's bridge tournament. It's our 10th year - we are still trying to get the hang of it...



There's plenty to see around. Be sure to talk to us if you want to know the island, or if you want to discover something else that you haven't seen before.

We will be live on BBO for the teams' tournament. You may get the chance of being kibitzed by half of the bridge world - how about that for excitement!

We suggest you start by playing at our Monday evening warm up session.

See you at the welcome cocktail on Monday at 6:00 pm.

Pedro Nunes

ENTRY FEE		
MONDAY WARM-UP	PAIRS	TEAMS
10 € / Player	75 € / Player	250 € / Team (up to 6 players)

Hard medicine

By Rodrigo Martins Soares

There's a British saying that goes something like "Desperate times call for desperate measures". The Portuguese equivalent is more like "For a hard disease take a hard medicine". That saying came to me some time ago playing bridge. I was South playing on the regional team's championship.

None Vul.

♠ A 9
♥ Q 5
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ J 8 7 5 2

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 10 7 6 2
♦ J 9 2
♣ Q 9 3



♠ Q J 6 5
♥ K 8 3
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A K 4

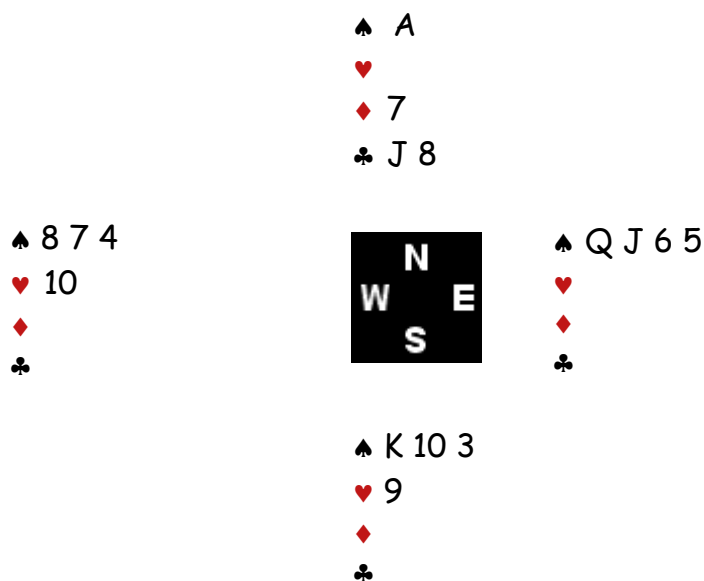
♠ K 10 3 2
♥ A J 9 4
♦ A 8 5
♣ 10 6

The contract was 4♣ and the lead was the ♣3. Yes, I said 4♠. Never mind how we got there, it's too painful to remember. No, there's no misprint - 4♠.

You've got your hard disease, now you need the hard medicine. And no..., throwing the ashtray at partner's head won't help much!

The defence started with three rounds of clubs. Now what?

You must start by ruffing low. There's no point on discarding now - it would be difficult to bring in that trump suit without a loss! Next comes a diamond to the Queen. The ♥Q is covered by the King and Ace, ♥J and a small Heart ruffed with dummy's ♠9. Now carefully play the ♦K and a diamond to the Ace (rejoicing when everyone follows). You've reached this end position with the lead in South:



Now the fun starts! You play the ♥9 and ruff with dummy's ♠A. East must start to underruff on this trick. When you lead one of the minor suit cards from dummy East has to ruff high to prevent you from making your ♠10 easily. And so you (coolly) underruff (!!!). (Notice that East has to underruff too which should make something of a world record - two underruffs on the same trick!). Now East is on lead with ♠Qx so you will take the last two tricks with your ♠K10.

What a neat end play! That's why I love Bridge. The only way to make a game with a 4-2 trump fit is to discard a trump!

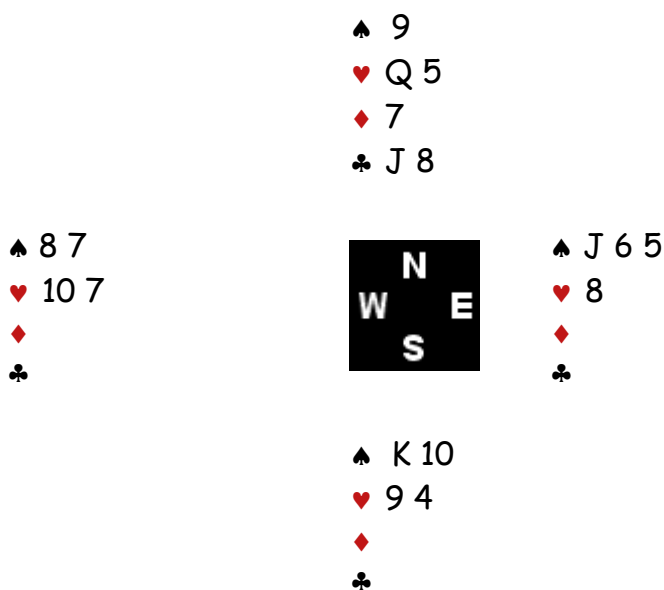
It wasn't such a bad contract after all. You only needed the Clubs 3-3, the diamonds 3-3, four trumps to the QJ on your right,... Oh and the King of Hearts also. I've played so many contracts so much worse...

Of course that's not really what happened. I cheated. The ♥K was with West. When I ran the ♥Q I lost to the King and West dully played a trump. I went up with the Ace, played the top diamonds, Ace and Jack of hearts and ruffed my last heart with dummy's ♠9. This lost to East's ♠J, but still I made the last two tricks with the ♠K10 for one down. That's no more than the bidding deserved. The good news was that there was no swing on the hand! On the other room NS went one down in 3♦. I don't really know how but I bet declarer was upset for not being in 3NT and somehow managed to go down. The point is: no matter how bad your disease is go for the hard medicine - it pays...

In-depth

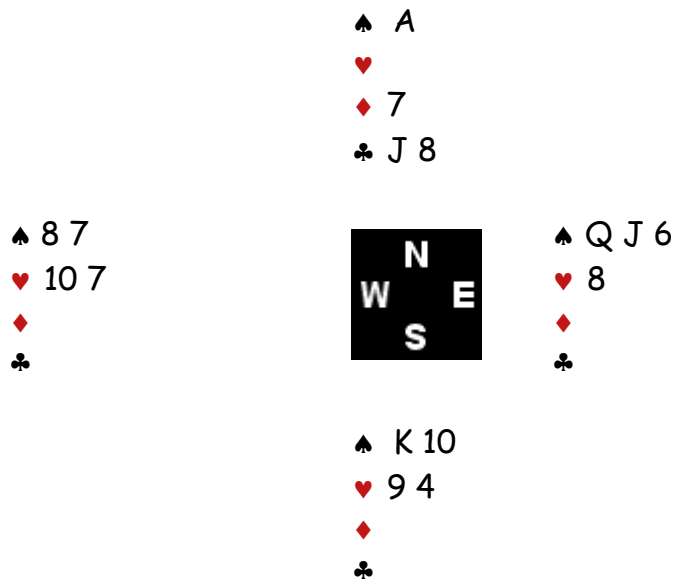
Returning to the deal I gave you (with the ♥K onside), is 4♠ really unbeatable after a club lead? Surely not. With 16 HCP and seven trumps between them EW should be able to put it down. We have seen that the natural defence of forcing declarer with three rounds of Clubs does not work. What if after cashing the King and Ace of Clubs East shifts to something else? If he shifts to a red suit, declarer just ruffs a club voluntarily and reaches the same end-position. The diamonds may provide an extra entry to dummy if necessary.

What about a trump shift? If East shifts to a trump honour, declarer will win with dummy's Ace and after ruffing a Club will reach this four card end-position:



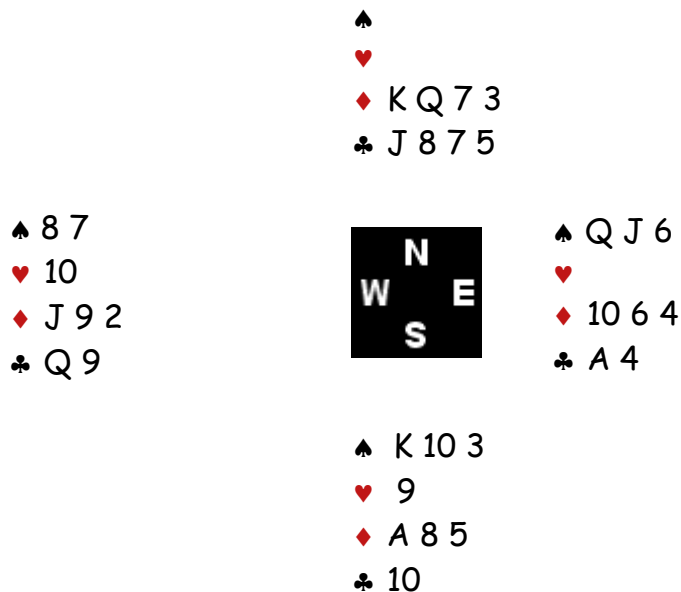
Now declarer will just ruff a heart and is in dummy to lead towards ♠K10, catching East's ♠J.

If the return at trick three is a small trump, you can just win with dummy's ♠9 and reach the following position:



Again you ruff a Heart and lead any card from dummy. If East ruffs high you just discard your losing Heart.

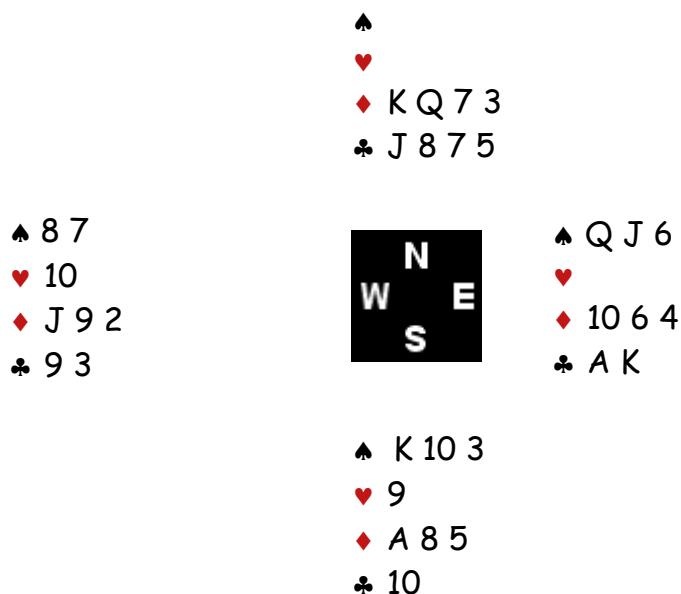
So, you need a shift at trick two. Again a red suit shift won't work. Declarer will just win in dummy and lead a club, eventually reaching on of the above endings. It needs to be a trump at trick two then. Let's see... Declarer now needs to ruff a heart before giving away the club or the defenders will pull dummy's last trump. So the second club will be led from dummy in this position



Now East has to be on his toes. If he goes up with the ♣A it's curtains for the defence. He has to trust that partner would have led the ♣10 for 109x, and

so expect him to have the ♣Q (maybe declarer should have played the ♣10 on the first round). West may then cash the ♥10 allowing his partner a diamond discard and doom the contract.

But what if East held ♣AKQ? Now the ending would be



Now East has to win the trick and again declarer will prevail. The best East can do is return the ♠Q, but South will take it with the King, cross in diamonds, ruff a club with the ♠3, Ace and another diamond to dummy and finally score the ♠10 *en passant*.

The point is that the next time you are dealt a 15 HCP with QJxx in trumps, where you know the opponents don't have a fit, and AKQ on dummy's first bid suit, **don't double** - partner may think it's lead directing and lead that suit..., and we've seen what happens. The "lead a trump (or even a diamond)" argument won't pull much weight with your partner while you're inscribing '-590' on your scoresheet.

The Top Atlântico Desk will be at the Hotel lobby.
It will be open Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
If you have booked through this agency you should do your payments there.

“May we have your attention please?”

(or “The-Things-the-TD’s-Will-Try-To-Tell-You-Before-The-Session-Starts...”)

By José Júlio Curado



In most tournaments (and ours is no exception) this is how the TD's will try to catch your attention. It usually indicates that the session is about to start and by then you are eager to pick up the cards, in the mood to win the tournament, flashbacking you system, but then... they spoil it for you! With what? Just a lot of announcements that nobody can't hear...

Not your fault, mind you... Maybe it's your opponents, discussing last minute agreements like their no-trump range or carding... How inconsiderate, for heaven's sake, couldn't they do this *after* your table? Or maybe is the TD's fault, speaking in such low tone... Why can't they make TD's with thunder voices, like angry gods in old sci-fi and kids movies? Surely James Earl Jones would make a great TD... Or maybe is your partner trying to convince you to play some strange convention like South American Arizona Texas (Moonraker Approach) or Stayman or something like that... And why is everybody talking so loud, it kind of reminds you of a description of the Farmer's Market (make mental note - must go there one of these mornings!)... You hear someone talking about boards and pairs and how they move... Do they expect you to memorise *the whole movement*? What was that about this dinner on Wednesday and that excursion Friday? By the time they tell you to start, you lost your momentum, your inspiration and sometimes even your partner that decided he had just enough time to go for a BCT tour... You stare at the envelope wondering what to do with it and with this piece of paper that came inside and (more important) what on earth is a BCT Tour...

Are you starting to feel miserable? Don't! There is a way around this. For the first time ever in writing, we proudly present:

THE TD's ANNOUCEMENT

Welcome to Madeira and our 10th International Bridge Open!

On the envelope you just got from a TD you can see your starting position for today - section, table number and where to sit - for instance, A1NS stands for Section A, Table 1, North-South. Below, you should write your names, (first and last) using capital letters.

Inside the envelope you will find an entry form where you should write your names (yes, again!), e-mail address and Country/NCBO. It is very important for the organization that you fill in all the information regarding participation in the social program. Please note that if you are not staying in the hotel with the Special Bridge Package but still wish to participate in the social program you should contact the Hospitality desk (open Wednesday from 3PM to 4PM), where the remaining tickets will be sold. Finally indicate the special prizes you are running for (if you don't we will assume you don't want to win any).

Put the entry form in the envelope together with the **Pair Registration blue vouchers** (one per player), or with the entry fee money (€75.00 per player) and leave it on the table, someone will pick it up.

Your Vouchers are like money - Don't lose them!

If you bought the Hotel Bridge package, you will get all your vouchers when you check-in. This will include the social events entry form (that when correctly filled and delivered will get you the tour and dinner vouchers) and the entry-fees vouchers if you are a player. They will be requested at each event.

I went to the movies the other day and when they asked me for the money I said "I must have left it in my room". I even tried "I guess I lost it somewhere" and "somebody stole it from me", but they still wouldn't let me in. They are this tough on this Island!



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**Organizing
Committee
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Bulletin Chief Editor



Organizing Committee Chairman

Program 2007

Monday (05/11/2007)	18.00	Welcome Cocktail
	21.30	Warm-up Pairs
Tuesday (06/11/2007)	15.30	Pairs Tournament Entries - Confirmations
	15.45	Closing time for Pairs Tournament Entries
	16.00	Open Pairs Tournament - 1st Session
Wednesday (07/11/2007)	09.00	Free morning
	16.00	Open Pairs Tournament - 2nd Session
	20.00	Dinner (*)
Thursday (08/11/2007)	09.00	Free morning
	16.00	Open Pairs Tournament - 3rd Session
	20.00	Final Results
Friday (09/11/2007)	09.30	Half-day Tour(*)
	20.45	Closing time for Teams Tournament Entries
	21.00	Open Teams Tournament - 1st Session
Saturday (10/11/2007)	09.00	Free morning
	15.30	Open Teams Tournament - 2nd Session
	21.30	Open Teams Tournament - 3rd Session
Sunday (11/11/2007)	15.00	Open Teams Tournament - 4th Session
	20.00	Final Results
	21.00	Closing Dinner and Prize Giving

(*) Dinner and Tour included in the Hotel package

If you have a well-played hand or a fun story at the table, don't
be shy!

Share it with us...

Contact any of the bulletin staff or TD