

THE TIMES

BRIDGE

with Andrew Robson

I once taught an Intermediate Course to a former Italian Islington resident named Pietro Campanile at Hampstead's Acol Club, when I was its manager in 1993.

Shortly before I met and befriended Israel 's leading female player Migry Tzur Albu when participating in the Tel Aviv Bridge Festival back in 1991.

Two more unconnected people it would be hard to find. So imagine my surprise (and delight) when I heard some years later that they had married and were living together in Israel.

How come? Pietro started to take his Bridge much more seriously and had met Migry 'over the net'.

The Internet romance had quickly blossomed and they are now running Israel's leading bridge magazine together.

This week's more advanced deal features Migry on her way to the runner-up spot in the 2004 NEC Cup in Japan (could she do even better this year?). Discarding a spade from dummy on West's jack of clubs lead, she led a trump to West's ace. This time she threw a heart from dummy on West's club continuation.

Declarer drew East's second trump, crossed to the king, of hearts, returned to her ace, then ruffed a heart. If the queen had appeared the slam would have been hers, a second spade discard from dummy being available on her promoted jack of hearts. But West discarded on the third heart and the slam looked doomed (she was no doubt cursing her failure to take the heart finesse - an inferior line but one that would have worked on the actual layout.

Dealer West
Teams

Vulnerability N-S

♠ 10973
♥ K95
♦ KJ8743
♣ --

♠ Q6
♥ 83
♦ A
♣ J10986542

♠ J854
♥ Q1064
♦ 62
♣ Q73

♠ AK2
♥ AJ72
♦ Q1095
♣ AK

W	N	E	S
Pass(1)	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣(2)	Pass	3♦(3)
Pass	3♥(4)	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦

All Pass

- 1) Strange silence at this vulnerability
- 2) Puppet Stayman
- 3) No five card major but at least one four card major
- 4) Four spades

Contract 6♦

Opening Lead ♣J

There was but one - unlikely hope remaining. Declarer led out dummy's remaining trumps. What could East discard - from ♠J85 and ♥Q - on the last trump? Declarer held ♠AK6 and ♥J and could discard from whichever suit East chose to retain. The squeeze, requiring West to have eight clubs, had actually materialize. Twelve tricks and slam made.