

The New York Times

Bridge

A Board-a-Match Success on the Way to the Fishbein

By PHILLIP ALDER

Published: August 8, 2008

The person who wins the most master points at the Summer North American Bridge Championships is awarded the Fishbein Trophy. The recipient in Las Vegas last month was Migry Zur Campanile, who has just moved to Manhattan from California. She is an Israeli international who won the 2000 World Mixed Teams title and the 1998 Generali World Women's Masters Individual. She also won bronze medals in the 1995 and 1997 European Women's Team Championships.

| | | | |
|------|------------|---------|------------|
| | | NORTH | |
| | | ♠ | A 9 6 5 2 |
| | | ♥ | 5 4 |
| | | ♦ | J 10 4 |
| | | ♣ | A 9 4 |
| WEST | | EAST(D) | |
| ♠ | Q | ♠ | K 10 8 7 |
| ♥ | A J 6 3 | | 4 3 |
| ♦ | A 5 2 | ♥ | Q 7 |
| ♣ | K J 10 7 3 | ♦ | Q 6 3 |
| | | ♣ | 8 2 |
| | | SOUTH | |
| | | ♠ | J |
| | | ♥ | K 10 9 8 2 |
| | | ♦ | K 9 8 7 |
| | | ♣ | Q 6 5 |

Neither side was vulnerable.

The bidding:

| East | South | West | North |
|------|--------|------|-------|
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 1 N.T. | Dbl. | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

West led the club ten.

Partnering Chris Willenken of New York, her best results in Las Vegas were third in the Open Swiss Teams and first in the Mixed Board-a-Match Teams. Their teammates in the Open Swiss were John Onstott of New Orleans, Jim Krekorian of New York, Chris Compton of Dallas and Bobby Wolff of Las Vegas.

They won the board-a-match with JoAnna and Lew Stansby of Castro Valley, Calif., doing well on the diagramed deal from the last round. (In board-a-match, you win one point for a net plus on the board, half a point for a tie and nothing for a net minus.)

At the Stansby table, JoAnna opened the East hand with two spades, which was passed out. South led the heart ten. Declarer ran that to her queen, played a heart to West's jack and called for the spade queen, which North ducked.

Now East played a diamond from the board, covered by the jack, queen and king. South returned the diamond nine, taken by dummy's ace as North unblocked the ten. When the heart ace was ruffed by North, declarer discarded her diamond loser. East ruffed the next diamond and led the spade king, forcing North to open up clubs, saving that guess and bringing home the contract.

When Campanile sat South, East passed as dealer. She passed also, West opened one club, Willenken (North) overcalled one spade, East passed again, and Campanile advanced with one no-trump. Now West made a very aggressive takeout double of spades. East's winning decision would have been to bid two spades, but he understandably passed.

Against one no-trump doubled, West led the club ten, showing zero or two higher honors.

After taking the first trick, declarer, if looking at all 52 cards, would have played her spade to dummy's ace and run the diamond jack. Eventually West would have been endplayed in clubs to open up hearts. Instead, South played a club to West's jack and dummy's ace, then finessed the diamond jack.

To defeat the contract, West had to take this trick, cash her clubs and exit with the spade queen. Declarer would have won on the board and played the diamond ten, but East could have covered with his queen, endplaying South in her hand to lose three hearts (or two hearts and one spade) at the end.

However, West ducked this trick. Now came the diamond ten, covered by the queen and king, West ducking again. West won the third diamond, took her three club tricks and exited with the spade queen to dummy's ace, giving this end position:

A heart to the ten and jack endplayed West. She had to put South in her hand with the heart king to cash the diamond nine.

Going plus at both tables gave the winners the point on the board en route to victory by more than five points.