

# NSBC Australia Day Swiss Pairs

## A Tale of Two Davids

by RAKESH KUMAR



*Rakesh Kumar describes himself as an enthusiast who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns.*

Another Sunday, another RealBridge event – this time hosted by the North Shore Bridge Club. And another win by a very large margin! David Fryda – David Hudson, who finished with 5 wins and 1 draw, were winners by a margin of almost 30 cross-IMPs, from Tim Mountjoy – Patricia Lacey, who also had 5 wins and a draw. Third spot, another 20 cross-IMPs behind, was taken by Liz Wilkinson – Patrick Neary.

David Fryda is the President of NSBC, so if there had been a trophy associated with this event, it wouldn't have gone far! He's obviously getting far too much time to play bridge, as his team just won the NSWBA New Year Online Teams, which finished on the preceding Monday ...

I thought it might be interesting to compare what happened on deals that generated some action at our table (yes, even those of us who finish nowhere can have a great day playing bridge) with what happened at the table where the two Davids were playing. I wondered if I might learn something and/or whether you might find it instructive.

Before I show those to you, here are three questions for you. Firstly, you reach 3NT after North has bid spades and ♠J is led to your queen. You play ♦A and North follows with the jack.

♠ KQ5		♠ 84
♥ 2		♥ A9643
♦ AKQ875	W	♦ 94
♣ KJ6	E	♣ AT32

What next?

Secondly, with both sides vulnerable, partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♣. What will you bid with this?

- ♠ QJT72
- ♥ A94
- ♦ T
- ♣ A972

And thirdly, nil vulnerable, partner as dealer opens 1♣, RHO passes and you respond 1♠. LHO now bids 4♦, passed around to you. What if anything will you do?

- ♠ KT652
- ♥ KJ3
- ♦ 96
- ♣ K76

Here's the deal related to the first of those problems. At our table, sitting North I opened 1♠. When West arrived in 3NT, I led ♠J to declarer's queen. Declarer now cashed ♦AK and could no longer make the contract. This was worth almost 8 cross-IMPs to North-South.

**Board 5**

Dealer N | Vul N-S

♠ AJT973  
♥ KJT8  
♦ J  
♣ 74

♠ KQ5  
♥ 2  
♦ AKQ875  
♣ KJ6

♠ 84  
♥ A9643  
♦ 94  
♣ AT32

♠ 62  
♥ Q75  
♦ T632  
♣ Q985

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	4	5	2	-	4
W	4	5	2	-	4

Exactly the same thing happened at the table where David Hudson – David Fryda were playing! As they were also sitting North-South, they gained in the same way.

What should declarer do? One approach is to believe that North's ♦J is a singleton and to cross to dummy with ♣A and run ♦9. When this holds, 10 tricks are available even without the club finesse. Among those who did this were George Finikiotis and Nikolas Moore. Meanwhile, David Weston (yes, a third David!) and Ranjit Limaye found an even safer line: both of them crossed to ♣A and ducked a diamond to North. A few others made 3NT without being tested in the spade suit.

So to the deal associated with the second problem. As it happens, North-South are cold for 6♠, but this contract was reached at only 4 of 18 tables. David Hudson – David Fryda were among those who did bid the slam.

**Board 29**

Dealer N | Vul All

♠ AK843  
♥ 2  
♦ AJ842  
♣ J3

♠ 65  
♥ KJ87653  
♦ K53  
♣ 4

♠ 9  
♥ QT  
♦ Q976  
♣ KQT865

♠ QJT72  
♥ A94  
♦ T  
♣ A972

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	3	-	6	2
S	2	3	-	6	2
E	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	1	-	-

The bid that might get you there is a 4♦ splinter, which allows North to make a 4♥ cue bid. However, even after the splinter, many chose not to cue and so finished in 4♠. Meanwhile, at a couple of tables, West threw a spanner into the works by bidding 4♥ over 4♦! That certainly prevented slam being found.

This is the deal related to the third problem. Would you believe that sitting East-West, David Hudson – David Fryda played in 2♦? A diamond contract by East-West was the usual outcome on this board, with the part-scores making 10 tricks and those in 5♦ going down.

**Board 33**

Dealer N | Vul None

	♠ 84											
	♥ A962											
	♦ 4											
	♣ AQ9843											
♠ Q97 ♥ 4 ♦ AKQJT872 ♣ J	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AJ3 ♥ QT875 ♦ 53 ♣ T52	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ KT652											
	♥ KJ3											
	♦ 96											
	♣ K76											

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	-	3	2	-
S	5	-	3	3	-
E	-	4	-	-	-
W	-	4	-	-	-

What would you have done with the South hand? My partner, who is not renowned for passing, decided to double! So I ended up in 5 ♣, which as it turned out was cold. Just to prove that my partner wasn't the only wild man at the virtual bridge table, Julian Foster did exactly the same thing after the same auction and Jenna Gibbons proceeded to make 5 ♣ as well.

Coming into the last round, partner and I had dug our way out of our 2nd/3rd round grave and crawled back to 14th spot out of 36, with some prospects of a respectable finish. However, in that last round we were up against Nick Hughes – Nicoleta Giura, who play a strong club/symmetric relay system (Nick has just published a book about it if you're interested). This was one time the system really triumphed: on the board below, Nicoleta played in 6 ♣, the only person in the field to do so, and there was no defence to this contract. Most of the field went off in 3NT! The swing of 15 cross-IMPs on that one board finished us off and catapulted Nick and Nicoleta into 5th place.

**Board 44**

Dealer W | Vul N-S

	♠ A73											
	♥ AK5											
	♦											
	♣ AJT9654											
♠ JT5 ♥ QT96 ♦ QJT42 ♣ K	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 862 ♥ 43 ♦ K7653 ♣ Q73	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ KQ94											
	♥ J872											
	♦ A98											
	♣ 82											

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	1	4	6	2
S	6	1	4	6	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

On this round, the Davids were playing against Liz Wilkinson – Patrick Neary, who stopped in 5 ♣ but gained 7.5 cross-IMPs, thus earning a draw against the otherwise invincible pair. Would you have reached a contract in clubs? ♠