

Leading question by *Derrick Browne*

The Easter Sunday Teams Congress was won by WU (Mike Wu, William Zhang, Michael Chen, Jin Li). They had an inauspicious start when MCGLASHAN (Des and Megan McGlashan, John Bennett and John Harvey) scored a maximum win against them in the first round, but then had back to back wins for the rest of the day to take out first prize.

Today's deals feature slams that make or go down based on a lead from the opponents. Sometimes the key is to "right-side" the contract so that there *is* no lead that can defeat it. The runners-up on Easter Sunday (Jamie Ebery, Nevena Djurovic, Fraser Rew, Michael Wilkinson) reported that they suffered a slam swing on this board, that may have cost them the event. On the auction shown, what should East bid next?

Dealer South, EW vul.

NORTH			
S 7543			
H 8643			
D 9874			
C 3			
WEST	EAST		
S 9	S AKQT62		
H AKJ9	H QT5		
D KQJ63	D A		
C J42	C K98		
SOUTH			
S J8			
H 72			
D T52			
C AQT765			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			Pass
1D	Pass	1S	2C
Pass	Pass	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	?	

Having set up a game force by bidding the enemy suit on the last round (3C), East now rebid the good 6-card suit, 3S. Big mistake. West, in desperation, now bid 3NT to show his club half-stopper. East raised to 6NT but North led partner's suit and the defence took the first two club tricks, one down.

To protect his CK as a winner on a club lead, East should have bid 6NT himself at his third turn to call. Played by East, 6NT cannot be beaten and unless South leads the CA, it makes an overtrick, which was the result achieved by the WU team on the same board.

Today's other deal comes from a Swiss Pairs Championship. Ceiny Maybury found made an ingenious, albeit dangerous, call to help partner find the winning defence:

Dealer West, both vul.

NORTH			
S QT852			
H 9732			
D —			
C T854			
WEST	EAST		
S AK6	S 7		
H J8654	H KQT		
D AKJ	D Q98764		
C AK	C QJ6		
SOUTH			
S J943			
H A			
D T532			
C 9732			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2C	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	Dble!	6H	All pass

West opened a strong 2C and East made showed a positive with diamonds. Perhaps West should not have bothered showing those miserable hearts, especially as this was an IMPs event (teams-type scoring, where the difference between making 6-minor or 6-major is minimal).

In reply to 4NT, West's 5D showed 0 or 3 keycards. Ceiny made a lead-directing double with the North cards, in the hope that partner Tina Strickland had an entry and would then lead a diamond for her to ruff. Against

6H, Ceiny led the S5 but sure enough, Tina later gained the lead with the HA and switched to a diamond; one down. Of course if Ceiny's bluff had been called and the opponents had redoubled the 5D contract, it would not have been such fun.