

World Bridge Championship Bridge
Philadelphia, 2010
Open Pairs Final

Part II

In Karl Gohl's memory. Karl, I always enjoyed playing together. Neil

Part I left off with us in the final playing in the 11th of 15 sessions! We were in 16th place, playing well, despite Karl's health issues (a bad cold).

Our streak ended several rounds later against Nunes and Fantoni. The 1st board we bid a slam that had a decent play, but didn't make. See if you can do better than I did in the play of 6NT on the accompanying board:

♠ KJ75
♥ AK103
♦ AQ6
♣ QJ

♠ A6
♥ 965
♦ 10975
♣ AK83

The 5♣ is led. Not the greatest slam. Besides only having 9 tricks, there is only one entry to the closed hand. Right or wrong, after cashing the 2nd club I played A♥, K♥. LHO showed out after following small. Now what (besides crying)? I listlessly played a spade to my hand, cashed my clubs, and took a spade hook, eventually making 11 tricks. Here was the full deal:

♠ KJ75
♥ AK103
♦ AQ6
♣ QJ

♠ Q942	♠ 1083
♥ 7	♥ QJ842
♦ K432	♦ J8
♣ 10752	♣ 964

♠ A6
♥ 965
♦ 10975
♣ AK83

The key to the hand is to ask yourself, 'What do I need to make it?' The answer that eluded me at the time, was the spade finesse, and the singleton or doubleton J♦. Once you find the right answer it is simple to play the Q♦ from dummy, and then the A♦ if the queen is ducked.

In the 2nd session things got a bit better. Here is an example of aggressive competitive bidding by two World Champions that cost them dearly:

	Jassem	
	♠ 1076	
	♥ 103	
	♦ K1087	
	♣ Q863	
Gohl		Kimelman
♠ A9832		♠ K54
♥ Q86		♥ KJ2
♦ Void		♦ AQJ2
♣ J10542		♣ AK7
	Martens	
	♠ QJ	
	♥ A9754	
	♦ 96543	
	♣ 9	

West	North	East	South
Gohl	Jassem	Kimelman	Martens
-	-	-	2♥ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Double	3♦
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

¹5 hearts and 4 of a minor, 5-9 HCPs.

²What is your minor?

The bidding made it easy for me to prefer no-trump over spades, especially with a heart lead through my KJx. In 3NT Martens led a small diamond, which went to the K and the A. I led the A♣, and seeing the 9♣, played K♣, club, claiming 11 tricks. This was worth 62 matchpoints, beating the pairs in spades, and ones in no-trump making only 10 tricks.

Our 3rd session was our toughest on paper, but proved to be our best scoring session with the overall top score of all 36 E-W pairs! We got off to a good start when Joel Wooldridge went for a subtle false card on board 3:

Hurd
♠ AJ93

	♥ 54	
	♦ 1074	
	♣ 7643	
Gohl		Kimelman
♠ 1042		♠ 5
♥ KJ7		♥ 9862
♦ AJ9653		♦ KQ
♣ 10		♣ KQJ985
	Wooldridge	
	♠ KQ876	
	♥ AQ103	
	♦ 82	
	♣ A2	

Karl led his stiff club against 3♠, and I played the Q♣. We play Rusinow leads so Karl could have been leading from J10x(x). After some thought Joel ducked to facilitate communication. I won, gave Karl a ruff and we cashed our diamonds and played a 3rd club. We scored only an average plus, as some N-S pairs were in game, also down one. Board 8 was a wild hand:

	Kimelman	
	♠ J82	
	♥ Q108432	
	♦ 9	
	♣ Q76	
Garner		Weinstein
♠ Void		♠ 1097653
♥ 6		♥ 95
♦ AKQJ8432		♦ 1075
♣ AKJ5		♣ 104
	Gohl	
	♠ AKQ4	
	♥ AKJ7	
	♦ 6	
	♣ 9832	

At our table Garner opened 2♣, which shut us out of the auction (I almost overcalled hearts - Karl would have fallen off his chair I think 😊). After no encouragement from Weinstein, Garner eventually subsided in 5♦, for a very poor score. A lot of pairs were in slam many doubled. All making with two making 7♦ (I assume with a club lead from North)!

The last two hands were from session 5 – one good one bad. First board 22: You are declarer in 6♦ on the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Gohl	Tuszynski	Kimelman	Gawrys
-	-	1♦	1♥
Double	Pass	2♥	3♥
3♠ ¹	Pass	6♦	Double
All Pass			

¹Cuebid for diamonds.

Gohl	Kimelman
♠ K432	♠ A5
♥ 76	♥ AKJ5
♦ A7	♦ Q1086543
♣ A8643	♣ Void

How do you play on the K♣ lead? I will come back to this hand in a minute.

On board 19 I held with E-W vul: ♠6 ♥92 ♦K1098654 ♣K64. The bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
Balicki	Kimelman	Pszczola	Gohl
-	-	-	1NT ¹
2♥ ²	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♠	?		

- 12-14
- Majors

I passed on the first round as I wanted to see what would happen. I was glad I did. I bid 7♦ pretty certain the opponents were bidding for a make. It went double, all pass. The full deal:

	Kimelman	
	♠ 6	
	♥ 92	
	♦ K1098654	
	♣ K64	
Balicki		Pszczola
♠ A109875		♠ KQJ3
♥ AQ765		♥ 1083
♦ Void		♦ 72
♣ A10		♣ 9875
	Gohl	
	♠ 42	
	♥ KJ4	
	♦ AQJ3	

♣ QJ32

The operation was a success, but the patient died. As you can see 6♠ is down as East has too many hearts. Not a good score.

The full deal of the board 22 above:

	Tuszynski	
	♠ QJ9765	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 92	
	♣ 10972	
Gohl		Kimelman
♠ K432		♠ A5
♥ 76		♥ AKJ5
♦ A7		♦ Q1086543
♣ A8643		♣ Void
	Gawrys	
	♠ 10	
	♥ Q109843	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ KQJ5	

I have some chances in 6♦. Primarily I can play for Gawrys to have three diamonds to the K, either KJ2 or K92. I can win the A♣ and pitch a heart, ruff a club to my hand, and lead the Q♦. Assume it gets covered, I can eventually ruff a heart with the 7♦.

So I won the A♣ pitched a heart, club ruff, then Q♦, K♦, A♦, 2♦. No 9 or J from North. Now I had no choice but to play for diamonds 2-2 with KJ in Gawry's hand and strip the hand.

To make the contract I had to assume he is 6-2 in the reds. Now if he started with 2-3 in the black it is right to ruff a 2nd club, cash the A and K of spades, ruff another club and south has to lead away from his ♥Q109 into my ♥AKJ on this trick or the next. However if he is 1-4 in spades and clubs I must ruff a club, play a spade to the king and now ruff a fourth club. I chose the former line, however when I played a 2nd spade south showed out, but erred in not ruffing. Now I am clear. I ruff out south's last club/exit card, and throw him in with a diamond. For me this was a nice way to finish this event.

Summary

Although we got up to 34th place around the 3rd Final Session, Karl's health continued to fade and we ended up 62nd. It didn't help that we scored a top against the Stansby's as a bottom, which I didn't notice until we were home.

The bridge level was high. In the 5th final a 7NT contract on board 1 with 35 HCPs between the two hands was bid by 34 of the 36 pairs. The hands in the final were of the like I had never seen before. First of all they were interesting with lots of distribution. I also found that contracts could be makeable more often than I would normally expect.

This event proved to be a very enjoyable experience. I was treated with respect and friendliness by almost all participants. Some, like Bobby Levin and Jeff Meckstroth, were especially nice and classy (the latter despite having scored 10 out of 140 matchpoints on our round). Above all, this experience taught me that good players who play consistently and bid the cards in front of them can be very successful against their more famous opponents.