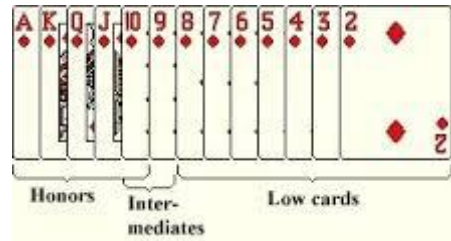


Diamonds @ Diamond Bay

The Kings & Queens Winter Teams was held at the Diamond Bay Bowling Club. The field was small but the quality was high. RAYMOND (Linden Raymond – Michael Courtney, Tony Bond – Tony Ong) led for most of the day, with DYALL (Henry Dyall – Steven Bock, Kevin Davies – Rakesh Kumar) and the double father-and-son team of McAULIFFE (Richard McAuliffe – Michael McAuliffe, Tomer Libman – Lavy Libman) hovering not too far behind. In the last round, RAYMOND lost to DAWSON, while DYALL was pulverised by McAULIFFE, who catapulted into first place.



Most of the swings in the last match involved – quite appropriately – contracts in diamonds. Here's a bidding question for you. After 3 passes, you open 1S, vulnerable, with this hand:

♠JT976
♥AKQJ
♦7
♣A53


LHO, who is non-vulnerable, now bids 3D. Partner bids 4S and RHO raises to 5D. What will you do?

And for your next challenge, here's a lead question:

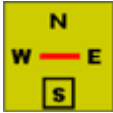
♠K6
♥KJ98742
♦86
♣K2

In first seat, nil vulnerable, you open 3H. After 2 passes, RHO backs in with 4D and the opponents reach 6D. Your opening move?


One of the big swings in the match, worth 13 IMPs, came on this board, which the Libman partnership bid to 6D. Only 3 of 11 EW pairs reached this contract. Others played in 5D or 3NT, or defended 4H doubled, as we did – but this wasn't very profitable.

Board 20	♠AJ	
Dealer W	♥KQ6543	
Vul Both	♦7	
	♣K854	
♠2		♠K9875
♥AJ8		♥
♦AKQJ832		♦T95
♣T7		♣AQ963
	♠QT643	
	♥T972	
	♦64	
	♣J2	

Back to that bidding problem. Here's the rest of the hand. If you took the push to 5S, you were not alone – no one was allowed to play in 4S. Four of 11 bid on, while a few others reached alternative unsuccessful contracts. Only 2 defended 5D, but 3 EW pairs must have had fun dealing with 4H doubled. The results table contained no declarer successes!

Board 19	♠K82	
Dealer S	♥T84	
Vul E-W	♦JT65	
	♣KJ8	
♠Q543		♠JT976
♥6		♥AKQJ
♦A9		♦7
♣QT9642		♣A53
	♠A	
	♥97532	
	♦KQ8432	
	♣7	

And so to that other hand, which accounted for the largest swing in our final match – more than two-thirds of the margin of the massacre could be attributed to this board:

Board 24	♠J5	
Dealer W	♥AQ63	
Vul None	♦AT73	
	♣JT9	
♠K6		♠T872
♥KJ98742		♥5
♦86		♦4
♣K2		♣AQ87643
	♠AQ943	
	♥T	
	♦KQJ952	
	♣5	

In principle, only 5D should make, but unless West leads a club from the doubleton K2 the contract is cold. Only one NS pair got there – the McAuliffes, of course! Their auction was hardly a thing of beauty. After 4D by South, who perhaps intended to reverse into spades, North cuebid 4H and South cuebid 4S. Then a keycard "oops" occurred and the next stop was a not-entirely-intentional 6D. But one can't argue with success! Meanwhile, the less said about the doubled 3NT contract played by NS at the other table, the better ...