

Summer Festival Swiss Pairs - Final

By Michael Byrne

The largest tournament of the year is over, and the winners are two international stars visiting from abroad.

Gabor Winkler and Peter Lakados scored 233 VPs from 15 matches to average an impressive 15 ½ VPs per match, a very impressive score that saw them win with a match to spare.

In addition to being one of Hungary's best pairs, Gabor is also Vice-Chairman of the Hungarian Bridge Federation, so it was only fitting that in the last round he faced Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman of the English Bridge Union.

This was a hand which showed that good players are prepared to back their judgement even at the risk of insulting your opponents.....

You are North, playing 3NT on the lead of the ♥K after your 1♦ opening has been overcalled with 1♥.

♠ 8
♥ J73
♦ AKQ42
♣ KJ98

[]

♠ J532
♥ A82
♦ 106
♣ AQ107

Fearing a switch to spades Gabor won the Ace of hearts and could only see 8 tricks. A 3-3 diamond break would bump it up to 10, but before he placed all of his eggs in one basket he cashed out the club suit, remembering (a frequent visitor to this congress) the late Patrick Jourdain's bridge Bols tip – ***“with 8 top tricks in 3NT cash your long suit.”***

On the run of the clubs East (the overcaller and opening leader) showed up with 2 clubs and discarded a spade very quickly and then a heart.

Gabor paused to count the hand and now correctly read East for 4522 shape, and confident that diamond were not breaking now produced a piece of bare faced chicanery that McCavity himself would have been proud of – he ran the ♦10!

Do you blame West for not covering? His defence would be correct if declarer wasn't going to run the ♦10, whether or not he held the 9.

The results on this board were (as on every board) very exciting with results all over the place.

For making +630 NS scored the full Nelson - 111 match-points out of 114, losing only to the pair that took 4♠X for 800.

A lot of NS pairs stopped in a part-score to score well, and several went one down in 3NT to score 27/114.

Two declarer's decided to go for broke and on the ♥6 lead they won and played 4 rounds of diamonds, hoping that the lead was a singleton and that West held the top spades, or else a signalling accident would occur. The appearance of West's 2nd heart signalled the end to their dreams as the defenders cashed 4 hearts tricks and THEN 4 spade tricks to result in -400 and a solo match point.

This was the full deal:

	♠ 8	Dealer N
	♥ J73	NS Vul
	♦ AKQ42	
	♣ KJ98	
♠ K1096		♠ AQ74
♥ 64		♥ KQ1095
♦ J873	[]	♦ 95
♣ 652		♣ 43
	♠ J532	
	♥ A82	
	♦ 106	
	♣ AQ107	