

**BOARD 1**  
**1997 Vanderbilt semi-final**

	♠ 8		
Love all	♥ 10 9 4		
Dealer North	♦ Q 10 9 7 6 5		
	♣ J 10 8		
♠ K Q J 9	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W    E S</div>	♠ A 10 6 5 4 3 2	
♥ A K J 7		♥ Q 8	
♦ NONE		♦ K 8 2	
♣ K Q 9 5 4		♣ 2	
	♠ 7		
	♥ 6 5 3 2		
	♦ A J 4 3		
	♣ A 7 6 3		
<u>North</u> Stewart	<u>East</u> Goldman	<u>South</u> Weinstein	<u>West</u> Soloway
3♦	Pass	5♦	5NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	6♥ <sup>2</sup>	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Intended as pick a slam, taken as Unusual, showing hearts and clubs

<sup>2</sup> Reluctant preference to hearts assuming hearts and clubs opposite

This hand illustrates that experts don't always get it right! North-South bid rather aggressively, pushing the auction up to 5♦ before Paul Soloway's turn as West. He bid 5NT, intending it as a choice of slams in any of the other 3 suits. However his partner, Bobby Goldman, thought it showed hearts and clubs, so gave preference to hearts, and the 11 card spade fit was overlooked in favour of the 4-2 heart "fit".

Weinstein as South led the ♦A. Goldman could not afford to ruff this as dummy would be left with only 3 trumps, so with 7 trumps outstanding one opponent must hold at least 4. Goldman tried the effect of discarding a spade from dummy at trick 1. Now all South needed to do was to cash the ♣A to beat the contract. However, seeing declarer struggling on the diamond lead, there didn't seem to be any rush to do that, since declarer surely had nowhere else to discard dummy's club losers?! So he played another diamond. Oops! Declarer was now able to draw trumps and discard all of dummy's clubs on the ♦K and his 7 card spade suit, making the contract!

**BOARD 4**

**1998 US International Team Trials**


Dealer West  
Game All

♠ K 4  
♥ A K J 3  
♦ 6 5 2  
♣ Q J 9 7

♠ J 3 2  
♥ Q 10 8 6 5 4  
♦ 4  
♣ 8 5 3

♠ A Q 10 9 5  
♥ NONE  
♦ A J 10 9 8 7 3  
♣ 2

♠ 8 7 6  
♥ 9 7 2  
♦ K Q  
♣ A K 10 6 4



<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Meckstroth	Cohen	Rodwell	Berkowitz
Pass	1NT	Double	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3NT was due to make against any defence so with his strong shapely hand Eric Rodwell correctly looked for a sacrifice. As 4♠ was game but 4♦ wasn't he opted to bid his spades. There wasn't much to the play – he won the ♦ K lead, ruffed a diamond in dummy setting up the suit and took the winning spade finesse, just losing a club at the end for +1190. How much did he gain on this board? Nothing – the contract and result were the same at the other table!

**BOARD 9**  
**Brazil vs Hong Kong, 1992 Olympiad**

♠ 5 4  
 Dealer North      ♥ K J 8 7 6  
 EW Vulnerable    ♦ 9 7 6 3  
                          ♣ Q 9

♠ A 9 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q ♣ A K 8 7 5 4 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">           N            W     E            S         </div>	♠ Q 10 8 6 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ A J 8 5 ♣ 6 2
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♠ K J 7 3  
 ♥ A 3 2  
 ♦ K 10 4 2  
 ♣ J 10

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Camacho	Chiu	Janz	Chun
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
2♥	2NT	Pass	3NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

This hand came from the 1992 Olympiad at a stage where both Hong Kong and Brazil were doing well. At one table West overcalled 2♣ over South's 1♦ (a 1NT opening would have shown 15-17 points) and this was passed back round to South, who reopened with a takeout double (a common tactic when short in the opponents' suit in case partner had some values but couldn't show them). This backfired somewhat when West could redouble to show his extra strength and East-West now bid their way to 3NT, doubled by North looking at his 6 points and partner's reopening double. With the clubs coming in for 7 tricks and the hearts guarded East came to 11 tricks for a score of +1150 – not a score to thrill East-West when they could have quietly defended 2♣ a few moments before!

It got worse for Brazil – their teammates bid to game, but in clubs not in no trumps. That had to go one off, losing a spade and 2 hearts, so they lost a big swing on the board.

This sequence of events – keeping the auction alive in the passout seat, seeing the opponents bid to game, doubling them and watching them make it – is known in some circles as a Biltcliffe Coup after someone who once perpetrated 3 of them in the same match!

**BOARD 12**  
**Brazil vs Hong Kong, 1992 Olympiad**

EW Vulnerable  
 Dealer West

♠ A Q 9 8 7 4

♥ A 10 9 4

♦ NONE

♣ K 8 3

♠ J 10 5

♥ J

♦ K 7 5 4 2

♣ 9 7 6 2



♠ NONE

♥ Q 8 7 5 3 2

♦ A J 9 8 6

♣ 10 5

♠ K 6 3 2

♥ K 6

♦ Q 10 3

♣ A Q J 4

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Chun	Janz	Chiu	Camacho
Pass	1♠	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	3♥ <sup>2</sup>
3NT <sup>3</sup>	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♦	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♦	Pass <sup>4</sup>	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

<sup>1</sup> at least 5-5 in hearts and diamonds

<sup>2</sup> showing a strong raise in spades

<sup>3</sup> bluffing, intending to run to diamonds if doubled

<sup>4</sup> forcing, showing first round control (ace or void) in the opponents' suit (in this case diamonds) and inviting partner to choose between bidding on and doubling the opponents

This amusing hand came later on in the same match as board 9 is taken from. Board 9 saw a big gain for Hong Kong; on this hand Brazil had their revenge. North underbid at his second and third turns, possibly deceived by West's 3NT bluff. However West couldn't let go and chose to keep sacrificing over the spade bids. Eventually North realized just how good his hand was and made a forcing pass over 7♦ to invite partner to bid a grand slam, which they did and which made easily. Not good for West who lost 2210 points instead of 710 had they passed out 4♠ or 5♠! At the other table North-South didn't evaluate their hands fully either and stopped in 5♠ - so Brazil scored a big gain when they might have gained nothing.

**BOARD 13**  
**2000 New Zealand National Teams**

	♠ 6 3										
Game All	♥ A J 10 9 6 3										
Dealer North	♦ A 10 7 5										
	♣ 2										
♠ 8 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K Q J 10 9 7 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K Q 5 2		♥ NONE									
♦ Q 8 6 4 3		♦ NONE									
♣ 10 9		♣ A K J 8 4									
	♠ 5										
	♥ 8 7 4										
	♦ K J 9 2										
	♣ Q 7 6 5 3										
<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>								
1♥	Pass!	1NT	Pass								
2♥	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT								
Pass	6♠	All Pass									

<sup>1</sup> Good hand (despite the pass on the previous round!)

This hand probably holds the record for the strongest hand to pass at its first turn to bid. Ishmael del'Monte, sitting East, is a world class player but he got a little lucky when South turned up with just enough points to respond to North's 1♥ opening – teammates wouldn't have been too impressed with defending 1♥! He caught up quickly on the next 2 rounds of bidding, and now comes the interesting part in the play. The contract will make but declarer must avoid the temptation to start with 2 rounds of clubs hoping to ruff the third round in dummy – North will ruff and there is still a club loser to come. Del'Monte avoided the trap and did make his contract!