

Board 6 from September 2017 Challenge the Champs

Imagine Lou's emotions as his past hand partner drove to a grand slam opposite Lou's 14 count! Here is the bidding by both pairs and the expert commentary by Bridge World editors Eric Kokish and Beverly Kraft:

East dealer

East-West vulnerable (matchpoints)

WEST	EAST
♠ A J 9 3 2	♠ K Q 5 4
♥ --	♥ 9 8 5 4 3
♦ A 7 5	♦ K 3
♣ A J 8 4 3	♣ K Q

Dhondy

Senior

---	1 ♣
1 ♠	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♦
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♣	7 ♠
Pass	

Glasthal

Massimilla

---	Pass
1 ♠	2 NT
4 ♣	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 ♠
6 ♥	7 ♦
7 ♠	Pass

To avoid opening a very weak heart suit, Senior pretended to hold 4=4=2=3. Curiously, she later made hearts the suit undiscussed for notrump and was able to reevaluate spectacularly when Dhondy showed a heart void.

To avoid opening in the very weak heart suit (and then possibly needing to rebid after a forcing one-notrump response), Massimilla pretended to hold an ordinary 12 HCP (not much of a distortion). His response showed a hand that reevaluated to an opening bid in support; two clubs would have been natural. Glasthal showed a two-suiter with slam interest, and, at this table also, hearts was the undiscussed suit. Seven diamonds invited seven notrump if the heart control were the ace.

Awards

7 ♠	10
6 ♠	6
7 ♣, 6 ♣	3
5 ♠	2