

# A HAND FROM THE 2007 CAVENDISH

## from Bart Bramley

Dealer: S    ♠ AQ87  
 N/S Vul.    ♥ K87  
               ♦ AQ6  
               ♣ QJ4

♠ ♥ 952 ♦ KT973 ♣ T7652	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">           N            ↑         </div>	♠ 42 ♥ AQJ6 ♦ J42 ♣ AK98
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♠ KJT9653  
 ♥ T43  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ 3

South	West	North	East
George Jacobs	Justin Lall	Ralph Katz	Bart Bramley
2♠	Pass	2NT	Double
3♠*	4♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Double	All Pass

\*decent spades, no feature

Ralph led the spade 8 (!), hoping to reach partner for a diamond through. That almost worked, but Justin ruffed, led a trump, and guessed to put in the 8. Then he led a diamond to his 10 and could not be prevented from reaching his hand twice more to finesse hearts. Making for +550.

In the same contract at another table declarer also guessed trumps, but he tried the diamond jack from dummy. North, Bob Hamman, DUCKED, killing a crucial entry and beating the contract. At a third table, where Kit Woolsey was North, he SPLIT his club honors on the first round. On a technical basis this complicated declarer's task by giving him an extra finesse to take (declarer can still succeed with well-timed play), but the psychological effect of the split worked faster. Declarer couldn't believe that anyone would split from that holding, so he went wrong in trumps and went down. At other tables South declared 4♠, usually doubled. On any lead declarer can make by drawing trumps, taking a diamond finesse, stripping diamonds, and endplaying East in clubs. This line requires West to hold the diamond king and East to hold the heart ace and both top clubs. Even with an opening club lead, declarer can strip spades and diamonds while ruffing one club in hand, then discard a heart on the third club to pickle East. However, at one table declarer stripped both minors and attempted to endplay East by leading a heart toward dummy. West, John Diamond, alertly put up the 9 to scuttle the contract.

## More Cavendish Hands from Bart Bramley

Justin and I had a couple of great results defending 1NT doubled. On the second board of the event I held

♠AQ765

♥A93

♦107

♣974,

as dealer at favorable vulnerability. Following the principles espoused by my longtime friend and partner, Sidney Lazard, I opened 1♠. LHO, with a full 17 HCP, overcalled 1NT, which Justin doubled on his 9 HCP. All was well when Justin led the spade jack from Jx, with the suit 3-3. When the smoke cleared we scored +500 for down two on what was a nothing hand at most tables.

Later, I had

♠A109

♥109

♦AKQ1082

♣A10,

once more at favorable vulnerability, this time in third seat. Justin passed and RHO opened 1♦. I briefly considered overcalling 3NT immediately, but I decided to start with a double. (How can you ever defend 1♦ redoubled with this hand unless you double?) The auction continued 1♠-P-1NT. I doubled again and everyone nodded. I cleared diamonds (declarer had J9xx) as partner showed a club card, which turned out to be the king, so we held them to one diamond and four heart tricks. Another +500 for down 2, and only a few people bid and made 3NT our way.

On the first hand of the last session I held

♠VOID

♥Q764

♦982

♣AK10852,

in second seat with nobody vulnerable. RHO opened 1NT (15-17), which I doubled to show spades and diamonds, or hearts and clubs. LHO redoubled, partner bid 2♦ (pass or correct), RHO doubled, I bid 2♥ (showing hearts and clubs). I wasn't liking the auction much and it got worse when LHO doubled, partner bid 2♠, and RHO doubled. What now? I considered that if partner had a spade onesuiter he could have passed over the redouble and then bid his spades, which would be unambiguous. But if he had a spade-diamond two-suiter he could have redoubled 2♥ to get me to pick. Finally I decided that he MIGHT choose to bid a one-suiter this way, so I passed. Right! Justin had ♠KQJ85432 ♥92 ♦106 ♣4. The opponents could actually beat 2♠ with a trump promotion, but they messed up and we made an overtrick for +570. It was the only plus score in our direction and a huge swing for us. That's living right.