

The King Sacrifice

by Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

In chess the Queen sacrifice is well known but a king sacrifice ends the game. Not so in bridge, witness this effort by Tim Verbeek of the Netherlands and Team Whitehouse. The deal comes from Round 6 of the Open Swiss Teams:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 7 4 2 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ K Q J 10 5 ♣ 8 4</p>	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ A 9 5 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ A 6 4 3 2 ♣ 9 5</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 ♥ A Q J 6 4 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 3 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						
<p>♠ K 10 6 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K J 10 7 6</p>						
West	North	East	South			
Krupowicz	Verbeek	Zawislak	Molenaar			
	1♦	1♥	Dbl			
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♣			
2♥	All Pass					

In this partscore contest the double from Danny Molenaar showed four or more spades. The 1♠ bid by Verbeek showed precisely three spades. The final contract was 2♥ by East, Slavomir Zawislak.

The defence began with ♦9 to the king and ace. Verbeek switched to the ♣9 and declarer's finesse lost to the king. A second club was taken by the ace.

Declarer's problem is that he cannot reach dummy. If he tries ruffing clubs North can over-ruff twice. There are five obvious losers. On lead with the ace of clubs Zawislak tried the effect of leading the trump queen. Verbeek let this hold. Next came the trump jack. This was more testing. Should the king offer his life in a noble cause?

Yes, indeed. If the king takes the second trump declarer has an entry with the ten to enjoy several diamond tricks. And so Verbeek played low again. The partscore was defeated.

Suppose North actually wins the first trump with the king and the defence cash ace and king of spades before South plays a third club. Declarer can ruff high and cash one diamond throwing his last club.

Just the Facts

Nevena Senior



Date of Birth: 21/09/1959

Place of Birth: Sofia, Bulgaria

Place of Residence: Nottingham

What is your favourite colour?

Black to wear, green to look at

What kind of food makes you happy?

Thai

And what drink?

White wine and champagne

Who is your favourite author?

I have been reading mostly crime in the last ten years and my favourite authors vary. At the moment Jo Nesbo, a Norwegian described as the next Stieg Larsson

All time favourite movie?

Gone with the Wind

Do you have a favourite actor?

Al Pacino

Actress?

Michelle Pfeiffer

What kind of music do you like to listen to?

Classical, Bulgarian, Easy Listening

Do you have a favourite painter or artist?

Da Vinci

What do you see as your best ever result?

Winning the Mind Sports Olympiad in Beijing and managing to stay with Brian for 20 years

Do you have a favourite hand?

Not really

Who is your favourite bridge player?

Catherine D'Ovidio in the women, Rumen Trendafilov in the men

Is there a bridge book that had a profound influence on you?

Polish Bridge Magazine in the second half of the 80s

What is the best bridge country in the world?

Poland & USA

What are bridge players particularly good at (except for bridge)?

Having a good time in the bar after the bridge is over

What is it you dislike in a person?

Dishonesty

Do you have any superstitions concerning bridge?

I don't change pens if I'm winning

Who or what would you like to be if you weren't yourself?

A Fox

Which three people would you invite to dinner?

Jason Hackett, David Gold and David Cameron

Is there something you'd love to learn?

Latin

What is the stupidest rule in bridge?

No strong feelings about it