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Bridge

By ALAN TRUSCOTT
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Some 500 players have taken part so far in the Battle of the Sexes, which is being played at the Cavendish Club in Manhattan and at the Club du Bridgeur in Paris. At the midpoint Saturday the lead of the men's team, which had peaked at 290imps Wednesday, had been cut to 74. By midday yesterday the lead had been cut to 34. These margins are considered trivial in a match of this length, in which 2,352 deals are expected to be played before the event ends Saturday.

The scheduling director, Claire Tornay, reports surprisingly little difficulty in finding players who will fill slots in the middle of the night. The diagramed deal was played at 6 A.M., but the declarer, Dorothy Hayden Truscott, was sufficiently alert to make the appropriate attack on the defender's entry.

Three no-trump was reached after a Stayman auction, and West led a club. South held up once, and won the second club lead with the king. Many players would attack spades at this point, but that would be wrong and would have led to defeat. The club ace would be removed from the dummy while West retained the diamond king as an entry.

Instead, South led to the heart ace, accepting some risk in that suit, and ran the diamond jack. West was able to win, but the clubs were now useless to the defense. Another club was led to the ace, and South played spades, making nine tricks when the defense held up the spade ace for two rounds. A shift to hearts by West would have made South nervous, but she would have survived.

This did not, however, gain any points for the women's team. The male declarer in Paris, playing at a somewhat more civilized hour, received a less damaging lead and emerged with an over trick.

Source