

Deal 1.

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

WEST	EAST
♠ J 9 7 2	♠ K 10 4
♥ K J 10 9	♥ —
♦ J 10 3	♦ Q 9 8 7 4 2
♣ K 2	♣ A Q J 4

<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Kokish</i>
—	1 ♦
1 ♥	2 ♦
2 NT	3 ♣
3 ♦	Pass

<i>Hausler</i>	<i>Spletstosser</i>
—	1 ♦
1 ♥	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠
3 NT	4 ♦
Pass	

For the Champs, Kokish, East, suppressed his club suit because of the discouraging void in his partner's suit. Nagy's two-notrump rebid was forcing, but did not promise game-going values. East showed his distribution and West clarified his limited intentions. With a misfit, a broken suit, and no extra high-card values, East had no thoughts of going further, so the partnership rested at a safe level.

For the Challengers, Spletstosser, East, not only introduced his clubs on round two (a questionable move in his big-club framework since the relative lengths of his minor suits were ambiguous) but bid again after Hausler's simple preference. West, with substantial undisclosed extra values, was understandably interested in game. Even so, three notrump seems a longshot. Finally, East jumped back into the frying pan.

Awards

3 ♦	10
2 NT	6
4 ♦	4
2 ♠	3
3 NT	2

Running score: Kokish-Nagy 10,
Hausler-Spletstosser 4.

Deal 2.

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

WEST	EAST
♠ 9 6 2	♠ A K 3
♥ —	♥ Q J 9 8 2
♦ A K Q J 8 6	♦ 9 7
♣ A K J 3	♣ Q 6 2

<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Kokish</i>
—	Pass
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 NT
3 ♠	3 NT
4 ♦	4 ♠
6 ♦	Pass

<i>Hausler</i>	<i>Spletstosser</i>
—	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 NT
3 ♣	3 NT
Pass	

For the Champs, Nagy, West, saw no third bid if he jump-shifted on round two, so he lay low for a round. When Kokish, East, suggested a maximum pass with at least a moderately balanced hand, Nagy came out of the bushes by showing his spade fragment and then his big diamond suit. This encouraged Kokish to cue-bid spades, covering the weakness in the West hand. Considering his diamond holding, West could not expect his partner to bid a slam, so he had to make the final decision himself—and did so successfully.

In a paradoxical situation, a lightish opening resulted in a lower contract. East showed a balanced minimum with no interest in a high-level minor-suit contract. Even so, the West cards must be worth one try.

Awards

6 ♦	10
5 NT	5
6 ♣	3
6 NT	3
5 ♦	2
7 ♦	1

Running score: Kokish-Nagy 20,
Hausler-Spletstosser 9.