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Gitelman & Moss 44
Sadek & Elahmady 57

West dealer; neither side vulnerable

WEST	EAST
♠ A Q J 9 2	♠ K 7 4
♥ A K J	♥ Q 6 4 3
♦ K Q 7 2	♦ A 5
♣ 7	♣ A J 4 3

<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Moss</i>
1 ♠	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♠
4 NT	5 ♦
5 ♠	7 ♠

<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Elahmady</i>
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 NT	5 ♣
5 ♠	7 ♣

Moss' two-notrump response was standard for decades in American bidding but must now be classified as old-fashioned: a balanced hand with game-forcing values. After two natural bids, Gitelman asked for key cards (the reply showed 0 or 3), then for third-round heart control. He was willing to take his chances on coping with his fourth-round diamond loser if East held fewer than four hearts. Hadn't Eddie Kantar written an entire chapter on disposing of fourth-round losers?

The Egyptians' auction started differently but ended similarly. Elahmady's two-step to two spades was game-forcing and suggested three-card support. Sadek took advantage of a rare opportunity to splinter in his partner's suit, then asked for key cards for spades (note the different reply), then for third-round heart control.

BWS Auction: 1 ♠ - 2 ♣ - 2 ♦ - 2 ♠ - 3 ♥ - 4 ♦ - 4 ♥ - 5 ♣ - 5 ♦ - 5 ♥ [Last Train] - ? West can't be sure what spe-

cific extra value has stimulated East's encouraging noise, but whatever it is seven spades must have decent play.

Awards: 7NT 10; 7♠ 9; 7♥ 7; 6NT 4; 6♠ 3; 6♥ 2; games 1.

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Gitelman & Moss 53
Sadek & Elahmady 66

North deals and opens two hearts; East-West vulnerable

WEST	EAST
♠ A 5	♠ K 7
♥ 10 4	♥ J 5
♦ K Q 7 4 2	♦ A 5 3
♣ J 9 7 4	♣ A K Q 10 8 6

<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Moss</i>
— (2 ♥)	3 ♣
3 ♥	5 ♣

<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Elahmady</i>
— (2 ♥)	3 ♣
3 ♥	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♦
5 ♣	Pass

Moss had a maximum hand for his overcall, so encouragement from across the table caused him to make a positive move that suggested lack of heart control. Sadek's one-round force did not suggest a liking for clubs, so Elahmady had to tread gingerly: He showed general strength, then diamond support in the context of inability to bid notrump. Sadek had no option in choosing the final contract.

BWS Auction: If West advances with three hearts, will he accept three notrump? This uncertainty argues for a heavy raise to four clubs, though we would not choose it. West wants to show diamonds and clubs without forcing three notrump—impossible. So we endorse both auctions.

Awards: 5♣ 10; 5♦ 7; 4NT. 4♣ 4; 4♦ 3; 6♣, 6NT 2; 6♦ 1.