

7

Landen & Pratap 46
McCallum & Sanborn 40

South dealer; both sides vulnerable

WEST	EAST
♠ 8	♠ K J 5 3 2
♥ A 7 4	♥ Q 6 5 3 2
♦ A Q 8 7 5	♦ 2
♣ K J 7 5	♣ Q 2
<i>Landen</i>	<i>Pratap</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass
<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	Pass

Both pairs suffered from the absence of the increasingly popular Reverse Flannery two-heart response, which indicates a moderate hand with five spades and at least four hearts. The Easts tried to cope with a doomsday scenario in different ways.

Pratap hoped that either he would hit five-five opposite or that taking any further action would turn out to be worse than passing.

Sanborn created a force, but then violated it by passing three diamonds. We're not sure why McCallum did not bid two notrump at her third turn, and it is not clear whether a three-heart continuation by East would then have been forcing. McCallum claims that she would have responded with an offbeat one heart but concedes that a two-club rebid by West would then have led to an even worse problem. Still, one heart would work spectacularly if West were to raise to two.

BWS Auction: 1 ♦-1 ♠-2 ♣-2 ♥-2 NT-3 ♥-Pass (or 4♥).

Awards: 2 ♥ 10; 3 ♥ 6; 4 ♥, 2 ♣, 2 NT, 2 ♦, 2 ♠ 3; 3 ♣, 3 NT, 3 ♦, 3 ♠ 1.

8

Landen & Pratap
McCallum & Sanborn

West dealer; neither side vulnerable

WEST	EAST
♠ Q 8 6	♠ K J 4 3
♥ Q 8 3	♥ —
♦ K 9 7	♦ A 6 3 2
♣ A 10 7 6	♣ K J 5 4 2
<i>Landen</i>	<i>Pratap</i>
1 ♣	1 ♦
1 NT	3 ♣
Pass	
<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
Pass	1 ♣
2 NT	3 ♦
5 ♣	Pass

The nonvulnerable Incumbents in light-opening mode, so East contented himself with an invitational on round two. When West revealed garbage in the post-mortem, it seemed pretty sweet to East; still, that's after the fact. Live by the sword, all that.

It's surprising that the usually aggressive McCallum did not open bidding, but that decision allowed to bid aggressively later, and Sanborn's three diamonds provided the impetus to reach game. The Newcomers gained four matchpoints and were just a few points behind with two deals remaining.

BWS Auction: Pass-1 ♣-2 ♣-2 NT-3 ♣-3 ♦-3 ♠-5 ♣-Pass. East is not strong enough to jump to three hearts over two clubs and complete the pattern (more or less) only after West goes past three clubs. Stopping short of game with these cards is a crime.

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