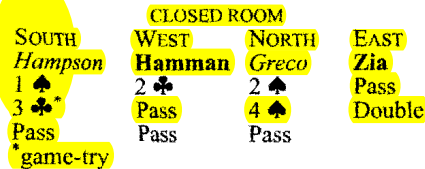
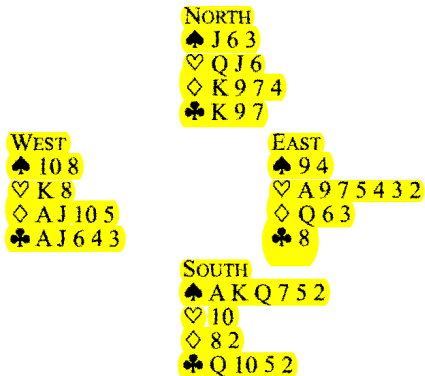


No one could accuse Moss of sitting on a 20-imp lead. As dealer, none vulnerable, he opened one notrump with:
 ♠ K ♥ J 9 2 ♦ A K Q 10 6 5 4 ♣ J 4
 Gitelman Staymaned with:
 ♠ A 7 3 2 ♥ K Q ♦ 9 8 7 3 ♣ K 10 3
 on the way to three notrump, and Moss comfortably took 11 tricks to gain 2 imps; Hamman-Zia made 11 tricks in a slightly more precarious five diamonds, finding the 11-card fit, after—shockingly—a different opening call.

Each side picked up an overtrick imp in a normal three notrump. Then, with both sides vul., Gitelman and Zia held:
 ♠ 9 4 ♥ A 9 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 8
 and saw (one spade) — two clubs — (two spades) — ? *Would you act?*



In the times of yore, there were those who might have considered West's vulnerable overcall the act of an insane man. When Hamman, who (unlike Moss) was around in yore, also overcalled, I could visualize Mike Lawrence burning his book on overcalls.

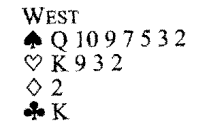
As much as the suit quality leaves something to be desired, failing to get involved in these situations can lose imps just as easily as an aggressive overcall. After responder's raise, Zia went quietly with the East hand, holding a stiff in partner's suit and the dreaded doubleton in the opponents' suit. Still, if intervenor can get in there with ace-jack-fifth, it seems incumbent on advancer to get his ace-seventh involved (and three hearts would have been nonforcing).

In the same position, Gitelman bid and later was able to pass comfortably. Moss, with decent defense, doubled, correctly believing that it might be his side's deal. Zia made up for his earlier passivity by doubling to direct the defense, letting his partner know that he had short clubs and other defense (or had declarer nailed in trumps). Zia's action worked out well, but one could construct layouts where one or both sides can make a major-suit slam.

Alerted by the double, Hamman led the club ace; on his table's auction, Moss's normal lead was the heart king. From there, the defenses were effectively the same, as Moss switched to the club ace, getting a club ruff, a diamond back, and a second club ruff for a push at plus 500. Please note that four hearts, though doomed on this deal, was an excellent contract. A good day for aggressive defensive bidding, a bad one for conventional wisdom.

After a c Greco-Hamp vulnerable s; unfortunate at On the same S (atypically) on both tables to gained 6 imps,

With neither three-spade op to you. What w ♠ J 4 ♥ Q ♦ Gitelman pe notrump. This w



Sc ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Gitelman collec the opening lead o nine (showing the won with the ace club deuce, things w declarer. The club o shift from any thre holding, reaffirming stiff spade ace. Play (and unblocking th dummy) will come the contract if it h follow with the dia club queen loses to clears spades, decla mond queen and h