

Newton Individuals, Jan 5-6, 2013

**Board 1**

North Deals  
Both Vul

♠ J 7 5  
♥ K 7 3  
♦ K 9 4 3  
♣ 10 9 6

♠ Q 10 8  
♥ 9 2  
♦ A 8 7 5 2  
♣ J 5 4



♠ 9 4 3 2  
♥ Q 8 6 5  
♦ J 10 6  
♣ Q 7

♠ A K 6  
♥ A J 10 4  
♦ Q  
♣ A K 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
		<i>M.R.</i>	<i>Pete</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
All pass			
Lead: ♦ 5			

My most outrageous psychic opening in a couple of decades (and my only psyche of the tournament) worked to perfection. Why West would lead fourth highest against that auction is a mystery to me, but I was pleased to rake in 11 tricks.

East was a colorful character, known to me only as the Mad Russian, who populates these individual events. He called the director to complain about my psyche, without recourse. West weighed in with a complaint that she had heard a similar complaint about me from another table. I piped up to complain about that falsehood. Quite a brouhaha.

This set the stage for the next afternoon, when I sat down with some trepidation to partner M.R. for a round.

(see board 2)

Before the dummy came down, M.R. announced this was "an impossible auction: don't ask a question, if you don't need the answer." This was definitely an unlikely auction, but I intended to bid 6NT if M.R. had shown a feature (which should promise a good hand). I played the hand conservatively for 11 tricks, eschewing the both the losing spade finesse and the winning endplay against West.

M.R. asked if 6♦ could be made. That contract is about the same as 6NT, except that it would be declared by M.R. - not a possibility I would ever consider. When playing with a weaker partner in an individual, grab every contract you can.

**Board 2**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ 9 6 4  
♥ 8 7  
♦ A Q 10 9 6 5  
♣ 8 7

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



♠ 10 3  
♥ Q 6 5 4 2  
♦ J 8 2  
♣ Q 3 2

♠ A K J 5  
♥ A K 10 9  
♦ K 7  
♣ A J 4

West	North	East	South
	<i>M.R.</i>		<i>Pete</i>
	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
All pass			
Lead: ♣ 10			

On the last board of the round, I decided to strike first...

**Board 3**

South Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 10 2  
♥ Q 7 6 2  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ A 8 6 4

♠ A K J 9  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ 2  
♣ J 10 9 5 3



♠ Q 4 3  
♥ A 10 8 5 4  
♦ 7 6 5  
♣ Q 2

♠ 8 7 6 5  
♥ J  
♦ K Q J 10 8 4  
♣ K 7

West	North	East	South
	<i>M.R.</i>		<i>Pete</i>
			2 ♦
Dbl	2 NT	3 ♥	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
All pass			

I rebid 3♠, hoping for a spade game - with me declaring, of course. M.R. had made a game try, but did not bid game when I showed a max with spades. Since I had no wasted spade values, my singleton heart and club king must be gold, so I pushed on to 5♦.

M.R. went on the offensive, saying I could not bid like that. I probably asked what happened to the hand he held during the bidding. He said he just wanted to know if I had a feature! No mild manners this round. The opponents lead no trumps, so I was one down.