

CHARGE ACCOUNT . . . By David Weiss

	North		E-W vulnerable, IMP scoring
	S—A105		
	H—8		
West	D—AKQ98	East	West North East South
S—QJ82	C—A1052	S—9	1C 1D 1H 2D
H—AK72		H—QJ10653	2H 3H Pass 3NT
D—5	South	D—J1062	Pass Pass Pass
C—J963	S—K7643	C—84	Trick 1: HK , 8, 6, 4.
	H—94		Trick 2: S2, 5, 9, K.
	D—743		Trick 3: D3 , 5, A, A , 6.
	C—KQ7		Trick 4: DK , 2, 4, C3.

Declarer ran for home with four clubs, three diamonds, and two spades. This brilliant example of expert bidding and defense was perpetrated by two of the higher finishers in a Swiss Teams event. Who gets the charge?

Steve Evans: "Why did East play the heart six? Since partner raised hearts, why doesn't he just play the heart queen and make the defense easy? It always amazes me how defenders trust their opponents' bidding but never their partner's. West had no idea something strange was going on; East did and should have let partner know about it."

Marshall Miles: "I think the fault was mostly East's. What would he do with the K9, J10653, J1062, 84? From his point of view, West could be leading from KQx(x) of hearts, so he would probably encourage a continuation. Surely East should have played the queen of hearts, which would have made the defense very easy. Without the heart raise he might be afraid that the lead was from Kx of hearts, but after the raise, failure to signal with the queen was inexcusable.

"West's club discard at the fourth trick did not look very good, but it could not cost anything. Declarer would surely know the distribution (after cashing the top cards in diamonds and spades) and would take the club finesse."

Evidently South bid the hand with more confidence than competence, and West "knew" that declarer had the guarded queen of hearts. The spade shift was eminently logical since, if the hand can be beaten, East would have to stop a black suit or two if he could not stop diamonds. East, on the other hand, knew (note the absence of qualifying quotation marks) what was happening in hearts. He was fortunate to be dealt the queen and the jack (the ten is superfluous since he holds six hearts), and simply by playing the queen he could have forced North-South to discuss their bidding methods.