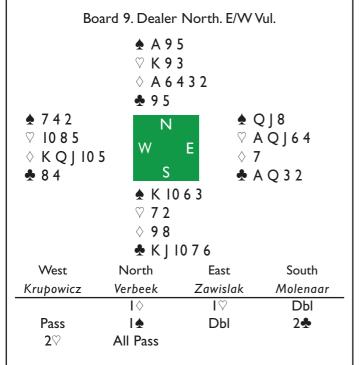
The King Sacrifice by Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

sacrifice ends the game. Not so in bridge, witness this effort by Tim Verbeek of the Netherlands and Team Whitehouse. The deal comes from Round 6 of the Open Swiss Teams:



In this partscore contest the double from Danny Molenaar showed four or more spades. The I \pm bid by Verbeek showed precisely three spades. The final contract was 2% by East, Slavomir Zawislak.

The defence began with $\Diamond 9$ to the king and ace. Verbeek switched to the $\clubsuit 9$ and declarer's finesse lost to the king. A second club was taken by the ace.

Declarer's problem is that he cannot reach dummy. If he tries ruffing clubs North can over-ruff twice. There are five obvious losers. On lead with the ace of clubs Zawislak tried the effect of leading the trump queen. Verbeek let this hold. Next came the trump jack. This was more testing. Should the king offer his life in a noble cause?

Yes, indeed. If the king takes the second trump declarer has an entry with the ten to enjoy several diamond tricks. And so Verbeek played low again. The partscore was defeated.

Suppose North actually wins the first trump with the king and the defence cash ace and king of spades before South plays a third club. Declarer can ruff high and cash one diamond throwing his last club.

