

The French Connection

13

♠ Q10
♥ Q9864
♦ Q54
♣ 964

♠ 7654
♥ AK72
♦ J862
♣ A

6
12 10
12

♠ K9
♥ J103
♦
♣ KQJ87532

♠ AJ832
♥ 5
♦ AK10973
♣ 10

♣♦♥♠NT
N - 5 - 3 4
S - 5 - 3 4
E 4 - 1 - -
W 4 - 1 - -

Dir: N
Vul: Both

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Gilles	Brian	Herve	Tom
Pass	1♣	1♦	Double
2♦	4♣	5♦	Double
=			

The lead: ♣A

Herve Cheval and Gilles Josnin are two names you may have noticed at tournaments in the Pacific region. The pair from Nouvelle-Calédonie played the 2015 APBF in Thailand and qualified for the A Final at the Gold Coast Pairs earlier this year. Herve showcased his technique on this hand from the first session of Pairs qualifying.

After a deceptive auction where South concealed his spades, West, Tom Jacob, was expecting a juicy penalty. He led the ♣A, saw his partner's suit preference card, and switched to a spade to the ♠Q, ♠K and ♠A. The ♦A revealed the bad break, after which the ♦10 was passed through West. After crossing to dummy with the ♦Q, South had to find a safe way of returning to his hand to draw the last trump. Both black suits would fail, but Herve navigated the position safely, exiting dummy with the ♥Q. With both top heart honours in West, there was no way to promote the ♦J. Well played, Herve.

Tom would be wise to respect his opponents next time. An Ace-King, an Ace, and a possible trump trick is clearly not enough to set a five level contract opposite a Brian Mace four level rebid!

Profile: Hervé Cheval and Gilles Josnin



Hervé (left) and Gilles (right) are playing in their first Congress. Yesterday's story demonstrated Hervé's cunning bidding and clever play. They are not a regular partnership in the Noumea Club they play in but have played as national representatives for New Caledonia.

On board 7 they showed the sort of defensive teamwork which is commonplace with the best partnerships but could be better known to club players.

<p>7</p> <p>♠ AK93 ♥ QJ9 ♦ Q8652 ♣ 6</p> <p>12 12 7 9</p>	<p>♠ J52 ♥ AK3 ♦ K1094 ♣ J87</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 87642 ♦ AJ7 ♣ Q542</p>	<p><i>Dir: S</i> <i>Vul: Both</i></p> <p>♠ 108764 ♥ 105 ♦ 3 ♣ AK1093</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	-	1	S	-	1	3	-	1	E	1	-	-	3	-	W	1	-	-	3	-	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> <th>WEST</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>=</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> </table>	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass	4♠	=	3♠
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Hervé lead 2♥ Gilles won and switched safely to a spade. Now East played 9♥ from dummy. Gilles pounced with the Ace and Hervé played his highest ♥ calling for the diamond switch. Making sure they got all 3 side suit tricks to defeat 4♠.

While New Caledonia is only a small Bridge Federation with 2 clubs in Noumea they combine together in a French Bridge organisation "Comité de Bridge de

L'Outre-Mer et de L'Étranger" CBOME which includes Guadeloupe, Réunion, and French-speaking African and Pacific territories. Hervé's team won the teams competition at a recent championship in St Cloud.

With continuing APBF contact and their friendship with the Skipper family we hope this will not be the last time we see Gilles and Hervé and perhaps others from our Pacific neighbours.

Lightning Crashes

The recently-crowned New Zealand Pairs champions, Pete Hollands and Tony Nunn, are two of the more laidback guys you can meet in the bridge scene. Perhaps that's why they gel so well. As usual, Pete downplayed his field-topping 66.6% when interviewed today. He attributed the following great result to "not knowing who had extra values, each of us wanting to co-operate in case the other held a good hand... and Trev [Tony Nunn] totally bossing the hand!"

<p>24</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ QJ7432 ♦ A7 ♣ 542</p> <p>♠ AK87 ♥ A105 ♦ J43 ♣ J63</p> <p>7 13 12 8</p>	<p>Dir: W Vul:</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ 9 ♦ K1065 ♣ AK10987</p> <p>♠ J10962 ♥ K86 ♦ Q982 ♣ Q</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-2</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	1	-	E	5	4	-2	4	W	5	4	-2	4	<table border="1"> <tr><th>NORTH</th><th>EAST</th><th>SOUTH</th><th>WEST</th></tr> <tr><td>1♦*</td><td>3♥**</td><td>X</td><td>1♣</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♣</td><td>=</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>*1♦ = Heart overcall **3♥ = Splinter Lead: ♥3</p>	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	1♦*	3♥**	X	1♣	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣	=	
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After a splinter and keycard auction, Tony found himself at the helm in a slam that appears hopeless, even looking at all four hands. He won the heart lead with the ♥A and drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand.

Tony looked at this transfer overcall and the distribution which revealed a few clues. First, South hadn't raised to 4♥ with a singleton club, which suggested only three card heart support. Second, North hadn't made a weak jump overcall and was likely to hold the ♦A. The straightforward line of playing for the ♦Q outside seemed unlikely to work. So Tony played a diamond to the ♦K and ducked a diamond to North's now-bare ♦A. Tony could trump the heart return and pedal trumps to reach the following ending (see overleaf):