2015 Crockfords Round 5 – Jagger vs Smith (Tim Smith, Dave Willis, James Clark, Bill Taylor as supersub for Owen Leigh who was away for the weekend)

6 eight board stanzas.

Stanza 1:

On the negative side (i) tim/dave in the wrong game compared to jagger/pagan & (ii) james/bill going for 800 against a vulnerable game. On the plus side (i) Dave/tim avoiding a non making slam unlike the opposition with james/bill taking their two top tricks; and (ii) board 8 the jagger team went off in a part score in both rooms.  
17-16 up. We said we’d take 6 of those.

Stanza 2 :

Board 9 was a big board – probably the defining moment of the match. Bidding, the defensive problem and then the hands as follows:

Home Table

North East South West

Tim Dave

1H 1S 2C 4S

5D P P P

This auction petered out in 5D, for a straight forward +420 to NS. The only reason South had to bid 6 was because he knew his partner had bid 5D missing the AKQ of trumps. But anyway he didn’t.

Away Table

North East South West

Chris Bill Ian James

1H 1S 2C 4S

5D 5S 6D 6S

P P DBL P

P P

A bit more action in this auction. E has a great hand for his 1S bid, so is surely worth 5S over 5D. Now S thinks his pd has spade void so bids 6D. W has a 6th spade and now can see his pd is really short in diamonds. Is 6D making? Who knows, but 6S is likely to be cheap so after a deep breathe... N now bids a forcing pass showing 1st round spade control, S thinks for ages and then dbls.

Now Question 1: what do you lead as S from :

Xx

Jx

AKQ

QTxxxx ?

Answer : ‘obviously’ you lead a trump to cut down on ruffs.

And, question 2, when a heart is played from w’s singleton at trick 2 what do you do as N with?

-

AKQxxx

JTxxxx

X

Answer: you ‘obviously’ duck to let pd in with the jH so that a second trump can be taken out and the contract is down.

However, At the table (and much to Bill Taylor’s surprise) Ian Pagan fails the first test – On the actual lead of a high diamond, E can make 12 tricks by ruffing all the diamonds before drawing trumps. He has the added luxury of playing clubs knowing N won’t be ruffing. +1660 to EW. and 19 imps to the good guys.

Full deal :

N

-

AKQxxx

JTxxxx

X

W E

KJ9xxx AQTxx

X Txxx

Xxxx -

Jx AKxx

S

Xx

Jx

AKQ

QTxxxx

Couple that with Tim/Dave judging correctly on another hand to take the money in 3C\* rather than go for a non making heart game and we were 28 up (Running score 54-26). Not mentioning of course that tim also let through a hopeless diamond game that could have made the margin even greater.

Stanza 3

The good guys won that 20-6 for a healthy 74-32 half time lead. (The stanza included a cheeky 3nt that made (phew) but could have failed by lots on a different lead & a very tricky 3nt where tims ‘play off a few cards and see what happened’ approach worked better than Chris Jaggers thought out master plan)

Stanza 4

The one stanza when Dave & Tim played against Jagger & Pagan. Overall 6 imps out and a running score of 85-47. But actually this should have been better - Dave played in 2S with two overtricks because, with 8 clubs missing the Q, he played the clubs from the top dropping the doubleton Q. That would surely be good because in 4s one should take the finesse. Except the opposition South managed to get stuck in dummy and had to play Clubs from the top also – 10 imps to the bad guys on that board.

Stanza 5

A little discussed set after the match although Board 37 looked exciting when N picked up his hand (SQTxxx HAQTxxx Dx Cx) but it was flat in 4S and board 39 required careful control from both E/W pairs to stay in 6h for another flat board. Over the 8 boards it was 14 back to the bad guys and a running score of 87-65, largely due to the enemy finding a club lead from QJx against 3NT without the majors being bid.

Stanza 6 (Commentary by tim)

8 boards left and 22 imps to spare – lets give them all away:

board 46 w opens 2H weak in both rooms and N/S will make a minus score since they haven’t a fit. 3NT-3 by jagger/pagan is much better than 5S\* by Dave for -1100. 14 imps to the bad guys.

Board 43 Bill miscounts his hand and doesn’t bid game. Fortunately not vulnerable and only 6 imps to the bad guys.

Board 42 3NT+2 in our room is also -2imps so thats the 22 imps gone!

Board 47 is a flat game so can we win by gaining on the other 4 boards? Of course we can – easy peazy!

Board 41 4h-1 by E in our N/S room is 2 imps in but I don’t know why.

Board 44 We stop in 2S+1 (N) (To make game need clubs 4-2 with Q in the doubleton – or E to lead away from the Q. Neither happen) and more e/w bidding propels the other N/S into game; 6 in.

Board 45 3NT E -2 in our room because declarer gets the club suit wrong. Bill Taylor correctly says there is only one way of playing the suit that gains the necessary tricks – plays the suit correctly and makes the contract. 13 imps in.

Board 48 Both tables play in 3NT by N/S. For Bill/James the weak hand is exposed and Bill can see to duck hearts twice and use his JC to stop TC from being a late entry. In our room i have the weak hand and am playing it. With QJ H in dummy (Kxxxx hidden) , E misdefends – he takes the second heart and I make because I can use my single spade entry to get to hand, use the KH to drop hearts 3-3 and claim. 10imps in.

So that is 31 imps in which is the winning margin and a final score of 118-87.

Hurrah.