

## A touch of Minc

One of Australia's most intrepid bidders, Olek Minc, passed away at the beginning of August. He was renowned at the Double Bay Bridge Centre for his fearless, flamboyant bidding and his card play often allowed him to get away with some outrageous contracts. In the 1970s he had a highly successful partnership with Gabi Lorentz. They were members of the victorious NSW team in the 1975 and 1976 Interstate Open Teams as well as members of the Australian Open Team which came third in the 1978 Pacific Asia Open Teams.

One of their best successes was the win in the inaugural National Open Teams in 1973 with Egon Auerbach and Max Hitter their team-mates. Today's deals come from that win:

Board 5. Dealer North NS Vul.

] 4	] Q J 3
[ Q 10 6 5 4	[ 7
} K 10	} 8 6 5 4 3 2
{ A K 8 5 2	{ 7 4 3
] A K 8 7 5 2	] 10 9 6
[ 8	[ A K J 9 3 2
} A Q J 9 7	} -
{ 10	{ Q J 9 6

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Auerbach	Grynberg	Hitter
	1[	Pass	2] (1)
3]	4{	4]	5{ (1)
5]	6{	Pass	6[
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Asking bid, with hearts as trumps

Lead: SQ

Declarer had no trouble in the play and racked up twelve tricks for +1660.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Lorentz	Walsh	Minc	Griffin
	1[	Pass	3{ (1)
4]	5{	5]	6[
Pass	Pass	6]!	Dbl

(1) Asking bid, with hearts as trumps

Declarer lost three tricks for -300, but a gain of 16 Imps.

At the time I wrote in Australian Bridgemagazine: 'Not much can be said about (my) horrendous double . . . except that it was contrary to all basic Imp principles. When it comes to slam-level decisions, it is a matter of safety first and there was no way that 6S could be expensive. Once North's 4C answer to the first ask had shown second round control in spades and the CA, South had to have diamond control to justify a further asking bid.' That rings just as true 34 years later.

In a similar scenario on the following deal, Minc produced one of the rarest creatures in bridge: the successful vulnerable save against the nonvulnerable slam:

Board 19. Dealer South EW Vul.

] -	] A K 10 8 7 4 2	] Q 6 3
[ Q 10 7 6 5 4 2	[ 9	[ 3
} K 10 5 4	} 7	} Q 9 8 3 2
{ 8 7	{ K 10 9 3	{ Q J 4 2
] J 9 5	] J 9 5	
[ A K J 8	[ A K J 8	
} A J 6	} A J 6	
{ A 6 5	{ A 6 5	

West	North	East	South
Walsh	Auerbach	Griffin	Hitter
			1{
3]	4[	4]	6[
All Pass			

In the play declarer was able to discover the diamond length with East and finessed accordingly for twelve tricks and +980.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Lorentz	Klinger	Minc	Grynberg
			1NT
3]	4[	4]	Dbl
Pass	5[	Pass	Pass
5]	Pass	Pass	6[
Pass	Pass	6]!!(1)	Dbl
All Pass			

(1) Diab-Olek-al

It was quite a feat to bid 6S vulnerable against not after 4S had been doubled and with a strong 1NT opening by the opposition. Minc was right again, as 6S doubled cost only 500. That was a gain of 10 Imps en route to their victory by 157- 141.