

Till the Fat Lady Sings – Part 2

See Barnet Shenkin's web-site

The saga continued with Shenkin's team having reduced the deficit to 38IMPs thanks to the mad doc.

Will he strike again? a desperate situation called for desperate measures but to capitalise you also need to be a skilled player

N (*Haase*)

♠ AKQ6

♥ KQJ105

♦ 2

♣ Q8

W ♠ J75

 ♥ A963

 ♦ K106

 ♣ 1092

 ♠ 82 **E Dealer**

 ♥ 82

 ♦ 852

 ♣ AKJ65

♠ 10943

♥ 74

♦ AQJ973

♣ 7

S (*Cuthbertson*)

Coyle sitting East, desperate for swings opened an 11-14Hcp No trump in E. This went to North who x. When it came back to Shenkin he xx for business. Coyle would likely have made 1Nxx with the club finesse. However, South happy with his team were well ahead and wanting no swings bid 3♦ in S. This was passed out. Mentally Shenkin chalked up 6 imps to us for a game missed. Little did Shenkin know the mad doc was in action again. At his table the bidding went like this

Bidding at Haase table

<i>W</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
		<i>Pass</i>	1♠
<i>Pass</i>	4NT	<i>Pass</i>	5♦
<i>Pass</i>	6♠	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Pass</i>
<i>Pass</i>			

Perhaps Cuthbertson with is opening didn't want to be outdone by his partner on the previous board?

This time Cuthbertson decided to open 1♠ !!

The mad doc checked for key cards and was only missing two. It worked the last time, so he tried a slam! This time the opposition led the ♥A. Now they could go wrong if they did not find the club shift but West found the shift. -50 and 130 in the other room was 5 imps away down by 43, 6 boards to play.

On to the next board .

In Shenkin's room N/S reached 4♠ when North raised South's opening 1♠ to 3♠ after West's double. Hasse's table was different

N (*Haase*)

♠ 10742

♥ 98642

♦ J

♣ AK3

W	♠ Q3 ♥ AKJ107 ♦ A8 ♣ Q975	E	♠ J8 ♥ Q53 ♦ 95432 ♣ J84
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♠ AK965

♥ void

♦ KQ1076

♣ 1062

S (*Cuthbertson*)

				<u>Bidding</u>	
W	Haase	E		Cuthbertson	
		<i>Pass</i>		1♦	
<i>x</i>	<i>xx</i>	<i>Pass</i>		2♠	
<i>Pass</i>	4♣	<i>Pass</i>		6♠	
<i>Pass</i>					

For the first time Haase and Cuthbertson had a good auction to slam. Slam is decent when you are a bunch of IMPs down and laydown with trumps 2-2. Declarer may guess it with a singleton Q or J in West.

Strangely this was the third board played in the set, and the third time N/S had bid slam off two aces!! With spades splitting 2-2 there was no defence. Declarer just conceded the ♦Ace

13 IMPs to Shenkin's team– now down by 30 with only 5 boards to play.

To be continued.