

If only my mistakes were like this...

Eddie Kantar had begun playing with Mike Lawrence and being two of the strongest players in America they attracted a bevy of kibitzers at any National championship they attended.

Lawrence had insisted they play a new convention, namely that after opening one of a major a jump to three of the other major by responder would show four card support and a singleton or void. They played for several months without it ever coming up, until one hand when Lawrence opened One Spade and Kantar held:

♠ void
♥ AKJTxxxx
♦ QJ
♣ AKx

Of course, Kantar completely forgot their clever convention and responded Three Hearts, intending to show a great Heart hand. Lawrence alerted and when the opponents asked explained it as showing four spades and an unknown singleton. Lawrence then bid Four Spades which meant he didn't care where the singleton was, he wanted to play in Four Spades.

Kantar now bid Five Hearts, in some vain hope that his partner would cotton on, but sadly Lawrence alerted that also. When the opponents enquired he explained that Kantar had a void in hearts before proceeding to bid Six Spades.

Realising they were doomed, Kantar bid Seven Hearts – at least if they were going to have a disaster with this monster he wouldn't put his partner through the trauma of having to play it. Lawrence alerted once again and this time when they asked he said "This cancels all the other alerts. I'm passing." The opponents led a club and he put Dummy down, Kantar now looking at:

♠ AKQTx
♥ xxx
♦ xx
♣ QJx

♠ void
♥ AKJTxxxx
♦ QJ
♣ AKx

He quickly won in hand, drew trumps and then crossed to Dummy throwing away his Diamonds on those wonderful Spades. His lasting memory was looking up with relief at the end of the hand to see a sea of kibitzers all standing up and walking away in disgust.