

THE GOSPORT EAR (Number 87) by LEPUS

Board 24 N/No was the end of a less than ordinary match.

	♠QJxx	♥Txxx	♦x	♣AKxx
♠Axx	♥Kx	♦JTxxx	♣xxx	♠void ♥AQJ9xx ♦AKQxx ♣xx
	♠KTxxxx	♥x	♦xx	♣QTxx

Table 1: -

[P] [1♥] [1♠] (!) [1N] /
 [2♥] [4♥] [P] [P] /
 [4♠] [5♦] [P] [5♥] End 12 tricks.

[2♥] was an unamusing Qbid showing at least a raise to [2♠] with useful high cards. The hand will never be fewer than 8 LTC. A very good alternative might have been [3♣] followed by [4♠] (!) By bidding the Spade game the passing hand indicated that he expected to make at least 9 tricks (actually game is lay-down!). The enemy hand has owned to 10, or 11, red cards, which marks the North hand as black suited. Once North, who is not a slow doubler of failing contracts, does not double, then South can see that [5♠] at TEAMS (even if happening to concede -500) should not cost more than -1 imp (at PAIRS, whether to bid is a much more difficult decision, as -500 would be a zero). East cannot hold more than 1 Spade, and may, more likely, have none. South had not read “The Irish Book of Leads” (!), and led a Spade.

Table 2 (n e b): -

[2♣] [2♦] /
 [4♥] [4N] /
 [5♥] [6♥] End 10 tricks.

West has a difficult problem over [4♥] as ♥K plus ♠A may make 12 tricks. However the “master” bid is a Qbid of [4♠] and over [5♦] (showing 2 losing clubs) sign-off in [5♥]. Had East held, say ♠x ♥AQJ9xx ♦AKQxx ♣xx then he simply bids [6♥] over the Qbid. But, suppose that the two hands were...

♠xxx	♥Kx	♦JTxxx	♣Axx	♠void ♥AQJ9xx ♦AKQxx ♣xx
------	-----	--------	------	--------------------------

...then again West should make a Qbid of [5♣] and East should bid [6♥] and may even consider [7♥] hoping that the **Diamonds** take care of any length cards in Clubs opposite. Note that on these cards [7♦] would be lay-down, and yet that 10-card fit had never been brought to life in the auction. So my preference would be for (something like) this sequence: -

[2♣] [2♦] /
[2♥] [2N] /
[3♦] [4♣] /
[4♦] [4♥] /
[4♠] [6♦] /
[7♦] End

[2N] showing values, and [4♣] and [4♠] being Qbids.