

# Bath Replays

## 23 An unusual score

Board 8. Thursday 3 January, 2008.

The Pepys Trophy was the setting for this board. West was the dealer, with neither side vulnerable.

♠ 93		
♥ 64		
♦ K9632		
♣ 7652		
♠ J85	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">NORTH</span>	♠ KQ764
♥ J1098	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Dealer 8 EAST</span>	♥ K32
♦ J107	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SOUTH</span>	♦ A85
♣ 984		♣ A3
♠ A102		
♥ AQ75		
♦ Q4		
♣ KQJ10		

The auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Dble
Pass*	Pass	Redble	All pass

\* Alerted. Requires partner to redouble. This is followed either by the lower of two non-touching suits or (as in this case) by a pass.

East set the wheels in motion to an unusual score with a 14-16 NT. South doubled on that nice hand, and now West was in the hot seat: What should he do? With flat hands it's generally easier to make seven tricks than try and rescue to your four card suit and make eight tricks. The other thing to take into account is the (undergrowth) intermediates or lack of. These could be very important fillers for East. As you can see, on this board they are worth their weight in gold. West and North passed, and East did as he was instructed and re-doubled, which ended the auction.

The play was interesting as the defence and declarer each have seven tricks if only they can reach them (and indeed the most common score at other tables was 90 for NS, South having bid INT over East's opening spade bid.) South has an easy club lead; declarer taking the second round to start on spades. South took the third round and cleared the clubs. Dummy discarded a heart and East a heart and a diamond.

What should South do next? It's certainly not easy: North has a red suit king, but which one? A heart does not look too attractive, though if North does have the ♥K the contract is three off. Alternatively, if North has the diamond king South must switch to the queen and East must duck in an attempt to block the suit, but South continues diamonds and East is end-played to lead away from the heart king after cashing his two spades. In practice South led a heart and that was East's seventh trick, giving East-West plus 560.

The main point of the hand: if you have a 4333 with plenty of undergrowth it is generally better to play INT doubled than attempt to rescue to a four card suit, as you have no ruffing potential whatsoever.

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