



# County Bulletin

Issue 38

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## Editorial News

This edition is a bit short on news and articles, so I hope that all you budding bridge journalists will consider submitting something for the December issue. It would be especially interesting to hear about your club competitions as they do not get much exposure.

I also send in the news to English Bridge for publication and very little is filtering through so please let me know about your successes or those of friends who are too shy to tell me themselves.

NORTH WALES SWISS PAIRS - THIS SUNDAY (OCTOBER 9TH)

Still spaces available. Contact Jean Hand 01244 830246

## Don't help declarer

by Bob Pitts

Sometimes playing pairs, you can exploit declarer's desire for extra tricks with a little diversion as happened on this deal. After North opened with a vulnerable three clubs, South had an easy three no-trump bid. West led the spade two and the ten was inserted from the dummy. Now we all know that declarer should win the spade ace at trick one anyway in case the clubs lie badly and the spade queen is needed as an entry for the clubs, but would you have ducked with the East hand, as happened at the table, giving South a chance to go wrong?

	♠ Q 10 3	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ A Q 9 8 7 6 2	
♠ K 9 8 2		♠ J 6 5
♥ K 9 7 4		♥ J 8 5 2
♦ Q J 3 2		♦ 10 8 6
♣ 4		♣ K 10 5
	♠ A 7 4	
	♥ A Q 10 6	
	♦ A K 5 4	
	♣ J 3	

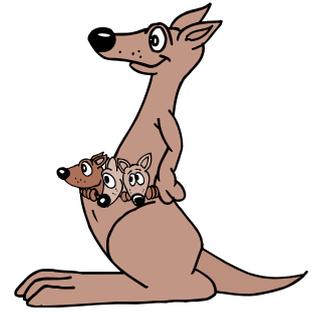
When declarer mistakenly let dummy hold trick one he was sunk. He played on clubs but once established they could not be accessed. If he tried to lead towards the spade queen, West could hop up with the king and return the suit locking declarer out of dummy. If South had tried the spectacular trick of discarding the spade ace on the third round of clubs then after taking his king of spades, West could exit in a red suit and there are just not enough tricks. for declarer.

# HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer East. N/S vul.

Imp scoring



♠ 8 7 5	♠ K Q 3	♠
♥ 2	♥ A 4	♥ Q J 10 9 7 5 3
♦ A K 3	♦ 10 9 4 2	♦ J 7 6 5
♣ A Q 10 5 4 3	♣ 9 8 6 2	♣ J 7
	♠ A J 10 9 6 4 2	
	♥ K 8 6	
	♦ Q 8	
	♣ K	

West	North	East	South
		4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West decided not to lead a high diamond preferring instead the two of hearts, clearly a singleton. Declarer counted nine winners and saw that a tenth would come from a heart ruff in dummy if the missing trumps broke 2-1. If the trumps were 3-0 however, he would have to develop a trick in diamonds to make the contract. That would necessitate having the ace of hearts as a late entry to a potential diamond winner.

So, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and took East's nine of hearts with the king. He led a potentially entry-preserving trump to dummy's queen. (On this layout, declarer fails if he cashes the ace of trumps first - West will exit with a trump after winning a diamond trick, leaving declarer an entry short to establish and cash a diamond trick). After East discarded a heart on the first trump, declarer played a low diamond from dummy to his eight and West's king. West exited with a trump and declarer played low in dummy taking the trick in hand with the nine. Next he played the queen of diamonds; West took this with the ace, cashed the ace of clubs and playing declarer for an original 7-3-2-1 shape continued with another club.

Declarer ruffed this and drew the last trump with dummy's king. Now the diamond ten was led from dummy and when East followed with the seven, declarer stuck with the original plan, discarding a heart from hand and when that passed off OK he claimed the rest of the tricks and his contract.

Of note is that if West's third diamond had been the jack instead of the three, it would have been good defence to win the first diamond with the king. Otherwise declarer would have no choice but to play for West to have started with ace-king-jack alone in diamonds.

## Chester Bowl

This popular Charity pairs event run by the Deva BC will be held on October 23rd.

Details available on the club website. Book early to avoid disappointment.

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## The Silver Plate

by David Stevenson

In the quarter-final, David Stevenson-Liz Commins, Paddy Murphy-Simon Edwards beat a team from Bristol, our third pair being unavailable. Two hand showed the advantage of being brave in defensive bidding.

### Board 3

	♠	
	♥ 10 7 4 3	
	♦ A 10 7	
	♣ A Q 10 9 8 2	
♠ A Q 9 6 4		♠ 7
♥ 8		♥ A K Q 6 5 2
♦ Q J 9 8		♦ K 4
♣ 6 5 4		♣ K J 7 3
	♠ K J 10 8 5 3 2	
	♥ J 9	
	♦ 6 5 3 2	
	♣	

On board 3 the Bristol played opened three spades with the South hand and our pair reached four hearts which made when the defensive cross-ruff failed to materialise. In the other room, I opened four spades, West doubled, east assumed it was for take out and jumped to six hearts. Liz doubled and we cross-ruffed our way to +1100! This gave us a 17imp swing. To be honest, while Liz and I play penalty doubles of four spade openings, we would not double on the West hand as partner will expect fewer spades but more strength.

### Board 12

	♠ 10 7 5 4 2	
	♥ Q 2	
	♦ A 10 3 2	
	♣ 8 5	
♠ Q J 8		♠ 3
♥ J 9 5		♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ K 8 7 5		♦ Q J 4
♣ 9 7 4		♣ K Q J 10 3
	♠ A K 9 6	
	♥ A K 6 4	
	♦ 9 6	
	♣ A 6 2	

They got their own back on board 12. In the other room Bristol reached four spades without interference, but in our room East opened with two spades which showed a weak two suite with clubs. I bid a natural two no-trumps, West bid three clubs and what should Liz do? Is three spades forcing? Do you know in your partnership? Liz, not unreasonably, passed and I had no reason to re-open. Three clubs went off of course but that did not compensate for the 620 scored in the other room

We are due to play a good Scottish team in the semi-final.

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**Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association**

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All of the club contacts are available on the County website

## Calendar

All events here are correct at time of publishing but you are advised to take the precaution of checking with the organisers in all cases.

### October

8th	Northern Bridge League round 4	
9th	North Wales Swiss pairs	Northop
23rd	Chester Bowl (charity pairs)	Deva BC

### November

6th	Merseyside Cup (Intermediate teams)	
27th	Waterworth Cup (County pairs)	MBC

### December

3rd/4th	Llangollen Swiss Teams	Llangollen
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### January

21st/22nd	Chester Congress	Deva BC
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## Have you entered...?

*by Bob Pitts*

Have you entered yet for the Llangollen Swiss teams? This is an excellent event and if you want to improve your game this is definitely something to participate in. It is being held this year on 3rd & 4th December.

Just to whet your appetite, here is a deal from the event in 2004. I was kibitzing at table 1 during the Saturday evening session, which is when the most errors seem to creep in.

*Dealer South. Both vul.*

	♠ J 10 8 6	
	♥ A 7 4	
	♦ J 9 6 4	
	♣ 9 3	
♠ 7 5 4 2		♠ K 9 3
♥ J 9 2		♥ K 6 5
♦ 10 2		♦ K 8 5
♣ 8 6 4 2		♣ K J 10 5
	♠ A Q	
	♥ Q 10 8 3	
	♦ A Q 7 3	
	♣ A Q 7	

South opened two no-trumps and North responded three clubs to enquire about South's major suit holdings. This gave East the chance to double to show some club values, so that when South eventually became declarer in three no-trumps, west was not hard pressed to find the best lead. East played the king at trick one and declarer ducked. Winning the club continuation with the queen he now cashed the spade ace and played the queen next. The defence could not afford to take this trick as it would set up two spade tricks in dummy whilst an entry remained.

Now South turned his attention to the red suits. He crossed to the ace of hearts and played a diamond to his queen. When that held he cashed the ace hoping to fell the king, but when that failed he played a further round of the suit. East won and returned another club. Now declarer could cross to dummy with a diamond and lead towards his queen of hearts, but East took his king of hearts and cashed three winners in the black suits to defeat the contract.

I was talking after the match to English International Martin Jones, who was sat West at this table, and he pointed out the simple error that declarer had made. At trick two the spade queen should be played, not the ace. This will still be ducked, but now the fifth defensive trick has not been set up. Easy when you think of it!

Check out the Congress website at [www.llangollen-congress.org.uk](http://www.llangollen-congress.org.uk) or look on the websites of the Welsh Bridge Union or North Wales Bridge Association.