

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Ross-on-Wye Swiss Teams Sunday

21/07/24 Hand No. 37

Dlr: North

Vul: N/S vul.

Bidding

| N | E | S | W |
|----|----|---|-----|
| 1H | P | P | X |
| P | 2C | P | 3NT |
| P | P | P | |
| | | | |

How to Play

Each summer the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Bridge Associations jointly stage a Green Point weekend in Ross-on-Wye. The format this year was Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss Teams on the Sunday both with six times eight board matches each day. The weekend was well run and thoroughly enjoyable. I would highly recommend playing, you can just play on one day if you wish. There was some local success with Tony Hill and Alan Wearmouth winning the Swiss Pairs. A similar weekend to this is being held by the Cheltenham Bridge Club on 24 & 25 August at Dean Close School. Full details are on the bridge club website.

My team played today's hand against the winners of the Swiss Teams and they showed good technique to bring home a game swing. At both tables North decided they had an opening bid, which was brushed aside as both west's declared three no trumps. North led the king of hearts, then the queen, both ducked by declarer and then a third round to clear the suit. With a combined twenty-nine points between the hands declarer knew from the bidding where all the outstanding points were, so the club finesse will surely fail allowing north to cash two more hearts. An alternative line of play is required and that is to simply cash your winners in spades and diamonds. North, who we know has QJ spades, two winning hearts and the K of clubs will be in trouble as when you come down to the last four cards they will be forced to discard a heart or bare the king of clubs. If north does throw a heart and still has the Q spades then you can play a spade to endplay north. They can cash their last heart, but will then have to lead a club away from the king. On the actual hand the favourable spade position led to an overtrick, but if north had started with QJx of spades then the play would have been essential.

So tip of the day – use the bidding to help you play the hand.

♠ Q J
♥ K Q 10 7 5
♦ 9 8 6 5
♣ K 3

♠ A K 9 6
♥ A 8 6
♦ A K J 7
♣ A 6

♠ 10 7 4
♥ J 2
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ Q J 5 4

♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 4
♣ 10 9 8 7 2