

# MOUNTNESSING BRIDGE CLUB

Meets every Thursday at 7.25 for 7.30  
at Mountnessing Village Hall, Roman Road, Mountnessing, Essex, England, CM15 0UG

## A neat play...

**Hand played on** October 23rd 2008  
**Board number** Red Section, Board 12  
**Dealer** East  
**Vulnerability** NS Vulnerable  
**Submitted by** Dennis Valtisiaris

North

♠J4

♥K87432

♦A64

♣AJ

West

♠Q62

♥Q95

♦QT3

♣T863

East

♠987

♥AT

♦9875

♣KQ75

Bidding:

♠AKT53

♥J6

♦KJ2

♣942

North

East

South

West

No

1NT

No

2♦

No

2♥

No

4♥

End

Modern bidding methods allow - and indeed encourage - the choice of a 1NT opener on hands with 5-card majors, if the suit is not re-biddable. Suppose you hold something like ♠Qxxxx, ♥Ax, ♦Kxx, ♣Axx; if you choose to open this hand 1♠ you will be forced to rebid 2♠ if partner changes suit at the 2-level, and unless partner has a decent, or otherwise favourable, hand you will very likely land in a mess. It is much better in the long-run to open 1NT if you play the 12-14 style; if partner uses Stayman you bid your spade suit as if it were a 4-carder. Such action rarely costs, but often avoids trouble.

Dennis followed similar thinking on this hand, and as a consequence he soon found himself as Declarer in a 4♥ contract.

The opening lead was a small club. There is now an inescapable club loser, but the contract is makable if trump losers can be restricted to two. How would you tackle the hand?

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The winning line is as follows. Win the first trick with ♣A and play a small heart from Dummy towards your Jack.

- If East plays the Ace, play low from hand and when next in hand run the Jack, pinning East's ten in the process.
- If East plays the Ten, cover with the Jack and when next in run a small heart, crashing the Ace cheaply.

Either way, Declarer now only loses two Hearts and a club, as a losing Diamond can be thrown on an established Spade.

That play earned Dennis a well-earned 'top' on the board.