

MOUNTNESSING BRIDGE CLUB

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

That was a great save partners, with your 27 high card points...

Hand played on January 13th 2010, Gold Cup Match (Teams of Four)
Board number -
Dealer West
Vulnerability North / South
Submitted by Alaric Cundy

	North ♠ Qx ♥ QJx ♦ AQJTx ♣ KQx	
West ♠ KJTxx ♥ x ♦ x ♣ AJTxxx		East ♠ A9xx ♥ 9xxx ♦ 9xxxx ♣ void
	South ♠ xx ♥ AKxxx ♦ Kx ♣ xxxx	
The Bidding		
	North 1♦ x 4♥	East No 2♠ 4♠
	South 1♥ 3♥ x	West No 2♥ ⁽¹⁾ No End

(1) West's 2♥ bid on the second round was Michaels style, and showed a black two-suiter that wasn't good enough to open initially. 2♦ would have conveyed a similar message and there was some debate after the event as to what would be the difference between 2♦ and 2♥. What was intended was 'this is a better collection than it might have been'.

In the other room, our partners played the North / South cards in 4♥. With their combined 27 HCPs and 8-card trump fit, the prospects looked quite good. Potentially there are eleven winners - five in each red suit, plus a club, though there are three obvious top losers. At the table, the defenders additionally found a club ruff, so North / South were left to curse their luck as they recorded -100. However, you never know what is unfolding in the other room....

East's initial 2♠ bid was automatic, but a few seconds reflection were needed before East later decided to sacrifice in 4♠. North / South had not only shown good values but also a lot of red cards. East too had lots of red cards, and it was quite likely that partner was void in one or other. The prospects of making at least 8 tricks on a cross-ruff at favourable vulnerability, even after an initial trump lead, looked good, so East was not unhappy to be left in 4♠ doubled. East was even happier when Dummy appeared and tricks one and two unfolded.

South led off with the ♦K, overtaken by North, who switched to the ♥Q followed by the ♥J, which was ruffed in Dummy. The cross-ruff was now set up and Declarer could sniff the possibility of ten tricks. The ♣A was led from Dummy, on which Declarer discarded a heart, and then a small Club was ruffed in hand. When the ♣Q appeared en route from North things were beginning to look even better from Declarer's point of view. A Diamond was ruffed in Dummy and another club was

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ruffed in hand, felling the ♠K, to leave the position below, with the Defenders having been restricted to two tricks thus far.

North

♠ Qx
♥ x
♦ QJT
♣ void

West

♠ KJT
♥ void
♦ void
♣ JTx

East

♠ A9
♥ 9
♦ 9xx
♣ void

South

♠ xx
♥ AKx
♦ void
♣ x

Declarer laid down the Ace of trumps and when both defenders followed, the contract was secure. The plan was to play a spade to the King and then to run the now established Clubs. The worst that could happen would be that a defender was able to ruff a Club, but Dummy's last trump would provide a critical entry to claim the rest of the tricks. When in practice the spades divided 2-2 Declarer scored the bonus of an overtrick, for a score of +690.

Sometime in the midst of scoring up the partners were congratulated on finding such a splendid save in 4♥-1 with their 27 HCPs – and not even doubled!