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		The B	Sidding	
	South ♠ xx ♥ AKxxx • Kx ♣ xxxx		North 1 × 4 *	East No 2♣ 4♠	South 1 v 3 v 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....

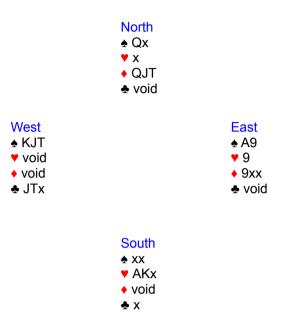
East's initial 2♠ bid was automatic, but a few seconds reflection were needed before East later decided to sacrifice in 4♠. North / South had not only shown good values but also a lot of red cards. East too had lots of red cards, and it was quite likely that partner was void in one or other. The prospects 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.



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 4v-1 with their 27 HCPs – and not even doubled!