

The Betts Bowl Final

North

♠ 9752  
♥ 32  
♦ Q9752  
♣ A8

West

♠ 4  
♥ QJ87  
♦ A8  
♣ KQ9653

East

♠ K106  
♥ AK5  
♦ J10643  
♣ J2

South

♠ AQJ83  
♥ 10964  
♦ K  
♣ 1074

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

	1D	1S	X	
3S	P	P	X	
P	4H	All Pass		Lead Heart 4

Last Friday saw the final of the Betts Bowl, a consolation event for those of us carelessly knocked out of the County's main knock out, The Broke Cup, in the first round. The final was high in enjoyment and friendliness with some big swings in both directions. This made for an exciting and close match. We managed to sneak ahead late on to win by 15imps. Our opponents can feel rightly disappointed after a couple of lucky late hands went our way.

This hand was one of the interesting ones in which I failed to take advantage of a slip by declarer. Both pairs did well to avoid the doomed three no trumps which, with only one spade stop and the club ace to knock out, had no chance, instead playing the slightly unusual four major with only seven trumps between them.

I led a trump to four hearts, and declarer won in hand and played a club. My partner, Dan, won the ace and correctly switched to spades. I won the jack and wanted to put pressure on declarer as I had four trumps so continued with the ace of spades to force dummy to ruff. Declarer ruffed and when hearts didn't break could do nothing but draw three rounds and run clubs. I eventually ruffed in, but had to choose - cash a spade or play a diamond back to dummy and hope Dan had the queen. As Dan had supported spades I played a spade, disaster! This gave declarer the tenth trick. I was hopelessly wrong playing too quickly and with lack of thought. With only diamonds and spades to discard Dan has no clear signal. His seven of spades switch screamed of four small rather than low from an honour so this was rubbish from me.

However, declarer can always make, with careful play, as our team mates proved to save my embarrassment. Can you see how? On the Ace of spades simply refuse to ruff and discard dummy's losing diamond! Swapping a spade loser for the later diamond loser, this now sets up declarer's

spade King and I can no longer force dummy to ruff. It's a simple matter of winning the next trick and drawing trumps.

When you can afford a loser this is a useful tip to keep control of trumps that may break badly.

Rob Miller.