

Northants Green Point Pairs

North

♠ K76
♥ AK108
♦ K953
♣ 73

West

♠ AQ2
♥ 752
♦ Q8
♣ A6542

East

♠ J54
♥ J64
♦ 1074
♣ Q1098

South

♠ 10983
♥ Q93
♦ AJ62
♣ KJ

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1NT

P P P

Lead Heart A

Last Saturday saw the Northants one day green pointed pairs held at Northampton Bridge Club. Fifteen tables competed, a full house and an excellent attendance. The event was very enjoyable and was won by Mark Hodgson and Paul Collins. Mark has finished second in this event five times so will feel the win is well overdue. As for Paul, this was not only his first green point win but his very first green point event. An excellent achievement made all the more remarkable with their incredible score of 110 out of 120VPs - one the highest I have ever seen in such an event.

Having won this event for the last two years our chance of making it three in a row was ended by Mark and Paul themselves who walloped us 18-2, hardly offering us sniff. This hand is an example of doing the simple things competently which is often all that is needed to do well at pairs.

I, like a lot of the field, opened a weak no trump. This is always dangerous vulnerable especially with a Qx but the five clubs make up for it a bit and the weak no trump often acts as a very good pre-emptive bid. Not here! It got passed out and the defence was simple but ruthless. The ace of hearts was led and encouraged by South. North continued hearts and rather than do the obvious and return their third heart South played a diamond showing their suit too. North won, cashed his hearts and knew which suit to exit with thanks to the diamond switch. South collected his diamonds and played a spade. North won and played a club! 1NT down four! This defence may look simple but was missed by all those defending 1NT apart from the winners against us. Maybe at the table it's not as easy as it looks. Well done again to Mark and Paul.

Rob Miller