

Be Brave

Board 4 on Tuesday had so much information available to the defence to defeat the contract but utilising it was a different matter.

West was the dealer and the bidding proceeded

1♥ - 1♠ - P - 2♣

3♥ - 4♦ - P - 4♠

All pass

Marion & Jacqui did well to bid 4♠ eschewing the diamond fit. No one else reached this contract, but as soon as dummy was exposed, a possible defence became clear. East as expected led a heart and I cashed the two heart tricks. Stop and assess, I can see fourteen points in my hand and ten in dummy. Marion's bidding probably showed an opener and likely 5-5 in her suits. Marion followed to both hearts, so her distribution may be 5-2-5-1. It is possible partner has room for a queen. Out of the unseen four clubs there is a three in four chance that partner has the club queen. Play a low club to partner's hopeful queen. Now partner needs to be on the ball. They have the same information from the bidding plus four diamonds. Why has partner under led the A/K of clubs? It must be to give an entry for a diamond ruff.

It is possible that partner could have a soft diamond trick say J108x or such like. Now you look stupid if declarer's singleton Q♣ wins the club switch. The odds favour partner having the club queen.

Be brave and find the defence and if it goes haywire, it should pay off on the next three occasions.

I'm afraid that I chickened out.