

The Summertown B team had its second match of the season on Wednesday evening, against Bicester B. There were some hiccups at the start, partly because I had got mixed up as to was acting as host. In fact it was Sandra – so thanks to her for getting us all playing.

There were a number of large swings, with costly mistakes abounding. But fortunately we made fewer errors, and came out winners by 106 IMPs to 57, equating to 16.46 VPs to 3.54.

Once again, Moira and Trevor were the stand out pair for Summertown, with a Butler score of +72. They made the only two slams of the night. Here was the first, dealer West, All vulnerable.

♠ 2	
♥ J62	
♦ AQJ97632	
♣ Q	
♠ AK4	♠ Q10
♥ AQ109743	♥ K85
♦ -	♦ 1054
♣ J53	♣ K10764
♠ J987653	
♥ -	
♦ K8	
♣ A982	

At the other tables this was played in 4SX-1 (by South), 5Dx-1 (by North) and 4H+1 (by West). As one can see it is easy for West to make 11 tricks in hearts. With Moira & Trevor North-South the bidding was: 1H, 3D, 3H, 3S, 4H, 5D, P, P, X, P, 6D, X. In fact 6DX ought to go two off, for a good sacrifice. However East, who should have led a trump, chose the heart king instead. This enabled Moira to ruff two hearts in dummy and run the trumps. Inexplicably, having to find a discard at trick 10 from

♠ AK ♥ A, West chose ♥ A, and the doubled slam rolled in.

♠ KJ105	
♥ AJ98	
♦ AJ654	
♣ -	
♠ AQ2	
♥ K743	
♦ Q9	
♣ AK87	

Here is the second slam hand, played by Moira as North in 6H. Two other tables went down in 6H, and at the third, with Ann & Mike defending, 4H went one off!

Moira received the ♣J lead from East. How would you plan the play?

If the trumps break 3-2, one could ruff the opening lead in the North hand, draw two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and ruff a second club in hand. There will then just be one outstanding trump for the opponents, the loosing diamond in dummy being parked on the fourth spade.

Instead Moira won the club lead in dummy, and played ♥ K, on which East discarded! So the trumps are 5-0, but, looking on the bright side, the trump finesses are marked. Moira took one finesse, crossed to dummy with a spade, and repeated the finesse. East had to find two more discards, and, critically got rid of a diamond. This brought the following position, with West still having ♥ Q 10.

♠ KJ10
♥ A
♦ AJ65
♣ -
♠ Q2
♥ 7
♦ Q9
♣ K87

Moira crossed to ♠ Q in dummy, and led ♦ Q, hoping to find ♦ K with West. Her luck was in – doubly, since West crucially failed to cover from a holding of ♦ K 3. This was followed by a diamond to the King and Ace.

Let's now see all the remaining cards.

♠ K J		
♥ A		
♦ J6		
♣ -		
♠ 8		♠ 9
♥ Q10		♥ -
♦ -		♦ 10
♣ Q6		♣ 1094
	♠ 2	
	♥ 7	
	♦ -	
	♣ K87	

North, declarer, is on lead, and now played ♦ J. East's earlier diamond discard means that ♦ 6 gets established, and West now has an impossible dilemma. As soon as West ruffs, declarer can win any lead, draw the last trump and cash out.

Notice how important it was to retain the ♣ K in dummy.

Well played Moira!

Many thanks to the whole team:-

Holly & Bridget
Moira & Trevor
Ann & Mike
Paul & myself

And also to our reserves, Tunde & Kati.

And a big thank you to Sandra, the match host.

Best wishes to all,

Roger Heath-Brown