

Brian's Brighton – Part Two

Bad Defence, Good Defence

This deal from the third session of the Swiss Pairs Championship featured some horrible bids, some horrible defence, and some good defence.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠	A J 8 5		♠	K 10
	♥	K Q 6		♥	2
	♦	5 2		♦	A Q J 9 6 3
	♣	Q 7 6 3		♣	A 8 5 2
♠	Q 6 4		♠	9 7 3 2	
♥	A J 10 9 7 4		♥	8 5 3	
♦	8 4		♦	K 10 7	
♣	K 9		♣	J 10 4	

West	North	East	South
	Senior		Wolfarth
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♦	3♠
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Liggatt		McGowan	
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠
Dble	All Pass		

At my table, North did not bid at his first turn. It is perfectly reasonable to double to show interest in the two unbid suits, but I prefer to see what the opposition are doing and only come in later if that seems appropriate. When West rebid 2♥, I balanced with 2♠. This was not completely safe, but East is known to hold fewer than four spades and West is not that likely to hold four of the suit. Meanwhile, South could have as much as a ten-count on this auction. East rebid the diamonds, and south made a bid which I will be polite and describe as merely ridiculous - North could neither overcall 1♠ nor double at his first turn, so how can this hand be worth a bid at the three level?

Anyway, East led the singleton heart and West won and switched to king and another club. East played a third club and, for reasons known only to himself, West ruffed with the queen! That cost two tricks. He gave his partner a heart ruff but had no entry to give the second ruff as dummy could ruff high on the return of the fourth club and declarer led a spade to the ace for down two. Minus 300 was hardly a triumph for North/South, but it salvaged over 30% of the matchpoints.

In another part of the forest, North overcalled 1♠. It is difficult to justify this when holding four-four in the unbid suits and it tempted South into an indiscretion. The pre-emptive raise to 3♠ is just too much with no ruffing value and no honour outside RHO's suits. Scotland's David Liggatt and Liz McGowan took full advantage of their opponents' poorly judged auction.

A heart lead went to the ace and the suit-preference four of hearts return duly saw East ruff and underlead to the king of clubs. Two more rounds of clubs saw West get a cheap ruff, a diamond to the ace put East in again to give a second club ruff, and the defence was completed by a second heart ruff. That meant down five for -800. Nicely defended.