

## Eastbourne Bulletin 3 – Freak!

By Brian Senior

There was no question which was the most talked about deal from the qualifying stage of the Seniors Pairs Championship. Here is the action from two tables – very different action, as you will see.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cooke	–	Hyett	–
–	–	3♣	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Gary Hyett opened 3♣, scared of missing a possible 3NT his way. I fairly violently disagree with this approach. You have three cards in the majors, very little defence, and are at favourable vulnerability. This is a time to pre-empt to the maximum. OK, you may miss the occasional 3NT, but far more often you put extra pressure on the opposition. However, the 3♣ opening proved to be sufficient to cause problems. South overcalled 3♠ – why on earth anyone would do other than cuebid 4♣ with six-six in the majors is beyond me but, as they say, every eye sees its own beauty. North asked for key cards then jumped to 6NT, looking for the extra 10 points at matchpoints. Even in that, he was to be disappointed. Not only was 7♥ cold so that N/S had stopped a level too low, but when Hyett cashed the ace of clubs there was no overtrick.

Plus 1440 was worth just over 25% to N/S. Plus 1470 would have been worth nearly 75%, so the opening lead was worth close to half a top.

Meanwhile...

West	North	East	South
–	Senior	–	Wolfarth
–	–	4♣	5♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

At my table East made the more normal opening of 4♣ and Ros Wolfarth showed her two-suiter by cuebidding 5♣. Imagine how I, as North, felt, looking at 22 HCP and seeing my vulnerable partner force me to the five level. There seemed to be no sensible way to explore after this start so it was simply a matter of 6♥, 6NT or 7♥. Surely, partner had to have all the missing top cards in the majors to justify the five-level cuebid, so it was just a question of whether she also had a club void. The odds seemed good and, as at

matchpoints we just want to do what will work more often than not, the grand slam looked a good bet.

Sure enough, East led the ace of clubs, ruffed in dummy and trumps were drawn – 13 tricks for +2210 and a joint top with only one other pair. The other pair to reach the grand slam were John Holland and Alan Nelson, who qualified in first place for Tuesday afternoon's semi-final.