

## Eastbourne Bulletin 6 – Punish their errors

By Brian Senior

Thanks to Jeff Smith who sent in the details of this finely played deal from the Seniors Pairs semi-final. It features John Holland, recently inducted into the new European Bridge League Hall of Fame for his achievements in international Seniors competition.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass

Many players would show their two-suiter as North, but the immediate 4♠ overcall is the pressure bid which often makes life more difficult for the opposition and it would be the call chosen by a fair number of experts. East doubled and that was that.

It appears that when the defence starts with the king of hearts overtaken and a second heart is cashed the contract is doomed. And, indeed, it should be. However, East discarded a diamond on the second heart and West switched to the jack of diamonds. To give declarer a possibility of making his contract both of those plays were necessary. It still, however, required that John take advantage of the careless defence.

John judged that, given the relatively limited defensive values which West could hold, he was a strong favourite to hold all three missing spades. Some players would give up at this point but John instead embarked upon a trump reduction play in search of an eventual endplay. He won the diamond ace, pitching a club from hand, ruffed a diamond, led a club to the jack, ruffed a second diamond and led a club to the queen. You will have guessed what came next – a third diamond ruff. The next trick showed that East had erred when he threw a diamond and not a club on the second heart. John played a winning club and ruffed it in dummy. Had East been out of clubs at this point he could have ruffed in front of dummy and got out safely with a diamond. As it was, East had to follow suit and John could ruff yet another diamond. That brought him down to ♠AJ ♣K facing ♠1086. He played the king of clubs and East was powerless. He ruffed with the ♠Q but then had to lead into declarer's ♠AJ at trick 12 and the contract was made for a superb +790.

Note that, even after East's diamond discard, the contract would have been defeated had West switched to a club instead of the diamond which gave declarer a crucial extra entry to dummy for the trump reduction play.