

## Eastbourne Bulletin 5

By Michael Byrne

The Tuesday saw a return to match-points as the knock out teams had a break. There was the seniors pairs for some and the open pairs for everyone else, and it was delightful to see so many players had come for the day on a coach trip from their bridge clubs near Whitstable.

I was lucky enough to be able to partner Johnny Richards, Wales most capped junior (try not to laugh, someone has to be) and he found a fine play on this hand which was very painful for North:

	♠ AQ7	Board 2 Vul NS Dlr E
	♥ AK10943	
	♦ 43	
	♣ K3	
♠ K86		♠ 542
♥ QJ5		♥ 2
♦ 1062		♦ AKQJ987
♣ Q1084		♣ A7
	♠ J1093	
	♥ 876	
	♦ 5	
	♣ J9652	

After 1♦ P 1NT North decided to double, thinking his hand was slightly too strong to bid just 2♥. I raised to 3NT gambling on partner having suitable stoppers.

North kicked off with three rounds of hearts (correctly reasoning his partner was unlikely to hold the KS) and Johnny began running the diamonds.

As usual when one hand is overloaded with the defensive assets trouble was soon looming on the horizon for N/S and this was the ending with North left to discard:

	AQ	
	-	
	-	
	K3	
K		5
-		-
-		-
Q10		A7

What could poor North throw?

If he threw a club then his king of clubs would fall under the ace and give declarer two tricks so he threw the queen of spades. Johnny now made a fine play of exiting with a spade, and when North played a club he ran it to his queen.

This gave him ten tricks for a score of 430 and 90% of the match points. (Two pairs had made it doubled). This was good enough to earn us second place behind the

Northants pair of Mark Tilly and Jimmy Deacon who gain some use from their strong club system.

In the evening the Tuesday night GCH Fox Championship Pairs for the Potters Resort Trophy the hands continued to be as exciting as they had been earlier on in the week, this was one of the big ones:

	♠ QJ843	Hand 18 Dir E Vul NS
	♥ 972	
	♦ J72	
	♣ Q4	
♠ A		♠ K6
♥ AJ10		♥ K4
♦ A93		♦ KQ1085
♣ AK10832		♣ J765
	♠ 109752	
	♥ Q8653	
	♦ 64	
	♣ 9	

Most partnerships had a free run and the auctions resulted in a wide variety of final strains and levels.

I am pleased to report that every EW pair got a positive score. With one pair playing safely in 2♣ for 190, and one pair scoring 520 in 3NT, everyone else reached at least a small slam, so bidding 6♣/♦ and making 13 was worth only 10/38 match-points (26%) for EW. 6NT was attempted by 7 pairs to earn themselves 1020 and 24/38 match-points (63%), while bidding a grand slam in clubs or diamonds was worth 34/38 (89%). And finally only one pair I am pleased to say went for the jackpot of 7NT and scored not only 1520 but also every single match-point, well done to Rosa and Rob Richardson from Norfolk.

The winners were Sarah O'Connor and Ben Norton, enjoying their first ever game together.

The other events of the day were the senior pairs championship won by John Short and Charles Chisnall who scored 175.27% (including carry-forward!) a fair bit ahead of Bill Hirst/Kath Nelson and Peter Law/Clive Cubitt.

And finally the U25 pairs championship took place over the course of the day and the winners with a very impressive 98.57 imps were local boys Ollie Powell and Jon Derrick from Brighton, with Ben Norton and Sam Behrens in second place with 67.5 imps.