

## Eastbourne Bulletin 7

By Michael Byrne

As the midweek draws to a close the Thursday saw the conclusion of two teams events, the Seniors Swiss Teams and the Midweek Knock-out Teams.

The Seniors Teams ended as a 3 horse race, between Crack, Goldenfield and Collins. None of the teams were playing each other and it was a case of who would yield first. All of the teams won their last match but Crack scored 13 to hold onto first place, well done to Brian Crack, Shirley Goldwin, Diana Avis and Colin Wilson.

The midweek knockout saw last year's winners team *Townsend* (Tom Townsend, Michael Byrne, Alex Hydes, Sarah O'Connor, Mike Bell) come home past Clare Harmon, Anne Husk, Barry Smale, Janet McQueen 75 to 16.

The evening event was where the biggest attendance was with 64 pairs contesting the mixed pairs, some in the early bird session upstairs and others the main room downstairs. With many international players playing it was hard to regard anyone as the favourites but in any event the field was swept away by a great performance from Susan and Jimmy Deacon from Northants.

On the hand below Jimmy showed good technique to put an opponent under pressure early on in the play:

	♠ AQ7	Board 13 game all Dir N
	♥ J764	
	♦ A75	
	♣ AK7	
♠ 842		♠ 109
♥ Q82		♥ A1095
♦ KJ64		♦ 1093
♣ J104		♣ Q653
	♠ KJ653	
	♥ K3	
	♦ Q82	
	♣ 982	

The Deacons bid

1♥ – 1♠  
2NT – 3♣  
4♠

and received the lead of the Jack of clubs. Perhaps with a 5332 shape and your only doubleton in partner's suit you should raise straight to 3NT, but if partner held 3 spades and a doubleton in clubs the suit contract could easily be better, sadly 4♠ appeared to be doomed on the actual lay-out.

However winning the club lead in dummy Jimmy immediately played a heart from the table. Do you blame East for rising with the ace? South could easily hold a singleton

king and knowing that South didn't have a guess (he can't be about to finesse the ten, you have it) it didn't seem like it would cost. Sadly this gave the contract as South could win the diamond return with the ace, unblock the King of hearts, draw trumps ending in dummy and ruff a heart felling the queen. Back to dummy with a club, take a discard and then lead up to the Queen of diamonds for the possible overtrick.

Making 4♠ was worth 52/62 match-points, as a fair many people had gone down and the most common result was 3NT making 600.

The next hand was the first of our evening and saw good judgement by my partner to get us off to a good start:

♠ A95  
♥ A963  
♦ 964  
♣ AK7

You open a 15-17 no trump 3<sup>rd</sup> in seat at love all. The next hand overcalls 3♦ natural (2♦ would be conventional) and partner doubles for take-out – what now?

It seems obvious to bid hearts, your 4 card major, but when you think about it pass is very attractive. If partner has 4 hearts and one diamond then you hold 8 hearts and they hold 9 diamonds, for 17 total trumps. That means if your side is making 9 tricks for 140 they are going one down for 100, or if your side is making ten tricks for 170 they are going for 300. However, that is best case scenario. What about if partner has only 3 hearts? Or he has 4 hearts and a doubleton diamond? Now the number of total tricks is only 16 and pass looks indicated.

In any event my partner Rhona Goldenfield gave it a lot of thought and decided to pass, which proved very much to be the winning decision when you see the full hand below:

	♠ KJ4	Dir N Love all Hand 17
	♥ J1042	
	♦ A5	
	♣ 10652	
♠ 1063		♠ Q872
♥ K875		♥ Q
♦ KQJ1032		♦ 87
♣ -		♣ QJ9843
	♠ A95	
	♥ A963	
	♦ 964	
	♣ AK7	

I kicked off with the jack of hearts and partner won the ace and switched to a trump, we played two rounds partner covering the 8 with the 9 to stop an entry to dummy. Declarer drew the last trump and gave it a good shot by leading spades hoping we would carry on with hearts, but we were able to stay off that suit until the end and

then lock declarer in hand. Declarer made just one heart trick and 5 diamonds for 500 to NS, and 100% of the match-points. Since nearly every NS had gone minus in hearts (most made 8 tricks though 9 are there double dummy) even beating 3♦x by one trick would have been enough for an 80% score.

I had a lot of sympathy for my EW opponents Christine Jepson and Neil Watts, but I am pleased to say it didn't slow them down at all as they scored 62.59%, 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Susanna Gross and Alex Hydes in 2<sup>nd</sup>.