

West leads the ♠Q. Declarer wins the ♠A and cashes the ♠K but East discards a club. What now?

You can forget the club finesse: West's 1NT opening (12-14) shows he has both minor-suit kings. Provided hearts break 4-3, you can establish a heart winner by ruffing. This gives you three discards but clearly won't enable you to dispose of all your minor-suit losers. You can certainly use the ♠Q to endplay West but the timing is crucial.

Declarer cashed the ♥A-K (discarding a diamond) and ruffed a heart. Now he exited with a spade, leaving West on lead in Layout D:

Layout D			
♠	—	♠	—
♥	—	♥	8
♦	KJ109	♦	843
♣	KJ10	♣	985
♠	7		
♥	—		
♦	A76		
♣	AQ6		

West tried the ♣J. Declarer took the ♣Q, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club and discarded the two remaining diamond losers on dummy's ♥Q-4.

The endplay here is simple enough but declarer must realise that he can only succeed if West has exactly three hearts. If declarer wrongly tries to cater for West having four hearts by cashing the ♥A-K-Q before ruffing a heart, what can declarer discard on the third high heart? He is left with just a doubleton in one of the minor suits, but then West can escape by exiting in that suit, leaving two losers in the other minor suit and just one heart winner in dummy. □

## OVERSEAS SUCCESS

ENGLISH teams took the top two places at the 2014 Pakistan Day International Bridge Championship. Jason and Justin Hackett, Mike Bell and Alex Hydes won convincingly, going through the competition unbeaten. Sandra Penfold, Brian Senior, Tom Paske and Ed Jones claimed second place. Penfold and Senior also finished second in the pairs event which preceded the teams competition.

## Top Table

## Sarah Teshome



**SARAH TESHOME** is one of England's most successful players, and has represented the country several times in women's international events. Over the years, she has amassed an impressive six wins in the Lady Milne, and has added medals in women's and mixed teams and pairs at European level to the silverware gained in county and national open and women's events.

### When did you start playing bridge?

At university, courtesy of one of my house-mates, Annabel Murday. We played at the university club, then graduated to the bridge club in the city. When Annabel took a year out, I started playing with Daron Acemoglu, who's now a seriously eminent professor at Harvard. With team-mates Heather Dunstan (now Dhondy) and Harry Anoyrkatis we won the Portland Bowl.

### How often do you play?

There isn't a pattern. Life is tremendously busy so I fit in games when I can. I hardly ever get to play at the club, because of work commitments and I tend to organise to play in events, mainly now domestically.

### Do you always play with the same people?

There's a lot to be said for always playing in the same team, but things can get stale, and you need to mix things up a bit to get different inputs and start different trains of thought. I play with various partners and team-mates in different events.

I always respond to enthusiasm and positivity in other people. I also respond well to courtesy – both to me and to the opponents. At the same time, though, I do want my mistakes noticed. I definitely cannot play in a team where bad bridge is not understood. If I've made a mistake, I prefer to have a discussion about it. It's because I've not seen something that I've made that mistake and I don't want to repeat it.

### What do you do for a living?

I'm a chartered accountant and I work for one of the big four accountancy firms, heading up the Transfer Pricing team in the North. It's a fascinating job, full of different challenges every day. I'm lucky to enjoy my work.

### What are your favourite bridge books?

My desert island bridge book would have to be *Bridge with the Blue Team*. I like *The Expert Game* by Terence Reese (which was revelatory

in the way that the Forquet book is not, but it all depends on what stage you are at when you read it), and enjoy Victor Mollo and S.J. Simon.

### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy spending time with my immediate and extended family. The children are teenagers now and they are always finding new stuff for us to read or watch or go see. We had a *Breaking Bad* TV marathon! I read a terrific amount, which is either the cause or the effect of an English degree. I also enjoy the theatre and walking my pooches. Attendance at the gym is more honoured in the breach than the observance. My very favourite thing to do is go out to dinner with old friends. I'm skipping off to Paris on Tuesday to do just that!

### What do you like and what would you change in bridge?

What I like about bridge is the huge range of people from different walks of life, and different stages of life. Tomorrow, one of my partners (Hubert Phillips) is old enough to be my father and on Sunday my partner is young enough to be my son. I also like the camaraderie that can/should come in a good team.

There are some things that could be improved upon in terms of tournament organisation and I never understand in bridge why the referee's decision isn't final. Appeal committees promulgate adversarial behaviour and don't tend to add much in terms of accuracy in interpreting the laws. But not much else, to be fair.

### What's the bridge success (so far) closest to your heart?

You're only ever as good as your last result, and in any case I take more joy from playing a hand well than by coming top in an event.

Danny, my son, has just started to learn bridge. He is prone to drawing trumps immediately, then counting his tricks and then going 'oopsy' when he realises he is at least a trick short. He's just won the Harry Scully. I am more pleased and proud of that than I am about anything else.