

Client: English Bridge Union
Source: The Times (T2)
Date: 20 July 2015
Page: 15
Reach: 390962
Size: 124cm2
Value: 3779.52



Bridge Andrew Robson

The 2015 Corn Cairdis "Cup of Friendship", held at Stamford Bridge Club, between the English Bridge Union and the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, was won by the EBU (253-226). Teams represented the counties, the clubs, and the officials. England lead the series 15-8.

Heather Dhondy of the EBU officials outplayed her Irish counterpart on this 3NT deal. Declarer ducked the jack of spades lead (which East overtook with the queen, in case the jack was singleton) and won the king of spades continuation with his ace.

Needing to develop clubs from dummy (to prevent East from winning the lead and cashing spades), at trick three declarer led the jack of diamonds to dummy's ace, then led the ten of clubs, covered by a (slightly deceptive) queen and won by the ace. Declarer needed to cross back to dummy for a second club play and here is where the play diverged.

The Irish declarer led his second diamond and finessed dummy's ten. East grabbed their now bare queen, cashed the spades (squeezing declarer out of a heart and a club), then exited with the small heart. The best declarer could do was win the ace, exit with a heart (to East's queen) and finesse the nine of clubs on East's club return. He still had to give up a club and that was a disconsolate down three.

Dhondy led her second diamond and rose with dummy's king. On the layout East's doubleton queen was felled and she could cash the ten-nine of diamonds

Dealer: West, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams			
		♠ 9 5 4	♠ K Q 10 8 6
		♥ J 8 7 4	♥ Q 3
		♦ A K 10 9	♦ Q 3
		♣ 10 5	♣ Q J 8 7
♠ J 2	N		
♥ K 10 9 5	W		
♦ 7 6 5 4 2	S		
♣ 3 2	E		
		♠ A 7 3	
		♥ A 6 2	
		♦ J 8	
		♣ A K 9 6 4	
S(Dhondy)	W	N	E
	Pass	Pass	1♠
1NT(1)	Pass	2♣(2)	Pass
2♦(3)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT(4)	End		

- (1) 15-18.
(2) Stayman - a request for four-card majors (effectively hearts).
(3) No major.
(4) Would like a second spade stopper, but loves the robust five-card club suit.

Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ♠ J

then finesse the nine of clubs. Four diamond tricks, three clubs and the two major-suit aces meant nine tricks and game made.

If the king of diamonds had not felled the queen (the likelihood) then declarer would still have survived if East had held ♣ QJx. Her play had two ways to win.

The EBU Team was captained by Heather Dhondy's husband Jeremy, the Chairman of the EBU. Good luck with the EBU's campaign, spearheaded by Jeremy, to make Bridge a sport, with all the advantages that would involve in terms of government funding and support.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk