

Spring 4s Bulletin 1 – Brian Senior

Before we get on to the bridge, a little story to illustrate how bridge is a great game for both old and young.

Bernard Goldenfield's first/second round draw was in a triangle and one of the other two teams consisted of six youth players. Bernard is older than the combined ages of all six members of the opposing team!

Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior are regular partners on the English Women's team. In the Spring Foursomes they are playing on different teams, giving both an opportunity to show their declarer playing skills on this deal from Round one/two. Both were declarer in 3NT, played from the North hand.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Heather received the lead of the nine of hearts, on which she played the queen. Because East held both the eight and seven, West could actually have afforded to cover with the king but if declarer had held either of those cards covering would have given her four hearts tricks. Accordingly, West played low and the queen scored. Heather led a diamond to the eight, jack and queen, and East returned a second heart, ducked to Heather's jack. Heather continued with a spade to the queen followed by a diamond to the ten, king and ace. East led a low spade and, with little hope of nine tricks if the ace was offside, Heather called for dummy's king, and was relieved to see it hold the trick. She returned a low spade, East overtaking partner's jack with the ace and returning the ten of clubs. Heather won in hand with the king and cashed the ace of hearts, throwing dummy's last diamond. Next she cashed the ace of clubs then exited with a spade. East won the ten but was then endplayed to concede a diamond at the end for the crucial ninth trick.

Nevena received a low diamond lead to the ten and jack. She ducked a club at trick two and West won and returned the eight of diamonds to the nine, and queen. East cashed the ace of diamonds, establishing a second diamond winner for Nevena, who still had a lot of work to do despite the two diamond tricks. East next exited with the nine of hearts and, once again, dummy's queen was allowed to win the trick. Nevena led a heart to her jack then cashed the king of diamonds. That squeezed West down to a singleton spade as she needed to keep both three clubs and two hearts. But there was no escape for West. Nevena next led a spade up and East had to duck as two spade tricks would have brought the total to nine. When the ♠K scored, Nevena played three rounds of clubs to endplay West, who had to lead into the ♥A-10 at trick 12 and that was once again nine tricks. So the two international partners both made their ninth trick via an endplay, just in different suits and one endplaying East, the other West.