

Brian's Brighton – Part Seven

Practical Slam Bidding

It is 12-55 on Friday afternoon, when that nice Mr. Hackett comes over and asks if I could possibly sit in for the BAM teams, just until David Mossop turns up, he's going to be late. Well, the good news was that I would be partnering an expert, David Burn; the bad news that we have only ever played nine boards together, about fifteen years ago in the Brighton Mixed Pivot Teams - and there was no time to discuss a system. A quick scan of the convention card that David was supposed to be playing with the other David and we were off. As it turned out David Mossop arrived just in time to watch us score up at the end, so I played the full 28 board session. Meanwhile, David Burn and I messed up two defences and a partscore competitive deal, but otherwise were OK. For a scratch partnership, we did well on slam deals.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠	A K Q 8 3			
	♥	J 10 7		West	North
	♦	7 4		Burn	East
	♣	6 4 3		-	Senior
♠	10 6		♠	-	2♠
♥	6 4		♥	2NT	4♣
♦	A K J 10 8 6		♦	4♦	6♦
♣	J 9 7		♣	Pass	All Pass
	♠	J 9 7 5 4 2			
	♥	A 9 3			
	♦	6 2			
	♣	10 2			

There is a lesson to be learned from this one - don't try to be clever when partner opens with a weak two bid. Had North simply raised to 4♠, it would have been far harder for us to get to slam. His psychic 2NT response left me room to use Leaping Michaels - at least five-five in hearts and clubs with sound values. When David could introduce the suit I had not promised, I had an unbelievably good hand in support. The raise to 6♦ seemed clear - partner should have two of the missing three red key cards, but would not have all three as, with a diamond suit worthy of a bid in the actual auction, he would also have had a 3♦ overcall of 2♠. After a top spade lead, David took a second spade ruff to make all thirteen tricks for +1460 and a winning board. N/S would have done better to save in 6♠, which would have only cost -800.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠	A K 8 4 3 2			
	♥	9 4		West	North
	♦	J 9 8 6		Burn	East
	♣	A 10 7 5 3		-	Senior
♠	-		♠	5♥	1♠
♥	A K Q J 10 5 2		♥	Pass	2♣
♦	10 4		♦	6♥	4♠
♣	J 10 5 4		♣	All Pass	
	♠	Q J 10 9 7 6 5			
	♥	6			
	♦	Q J 3			
	♣	9 2			

