

Brian's Brighton The Summer Meeting 2015

Sunday 16th – Swiss Pairs Session 2

We were well beaten in our Round Four match against Nawal Fenwick and John Harrison. Fenwick did well as declarer on this first deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠	A 8		West	North	East	South
	♥	A Q 8		Harrison	Senior	Fenwick	Wolfarth
	♦	Q 9 6 3		–	–	1♦	2♠
	♣	J 8 5 2		Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass
♠	Q 6		♠	10 5 3			
♥	K 10 4 3		♥	9 6			
♦	10 7 4		♦	A K J 5 2			
♣	K Q 10 6		♣	A 7 4			
	♠	K J 9 7 4 2					
	♥	J 7 6 2					
	♦	9					
	♣	9 3					

We might have made 3♠, but my diamond length persuaded me to defend. Geoff Wolfarth led the nine of clubs to dummy's queen. Fenwick led the ten of diamonds to the queen and king then cashed the ace. A spade towards dummy came next and Wolfarth went in with the king and returned a spade for the queen and ace. I played the nine of diamonds to pin dummy's seven. Fenwick won and played the nine of hearts and, when Wolfarth played low, we were at the critical point in the hand. Had she gone up with the king, we would have been in control and the contract would have been two down for -200 - the kiss of death on a partscore deal at matchpoints. But she ran the nine to my queen and I was caught.

There was no way to get at our third spade winner. The best I could do would be to cash the diamond and exit with a club - declarer cannot run this round to dummy as the suit is then blocked, but if she wins in hand and leads a heart to the ten that produces the eighth trick and down one was no disaster for E/W.

It was Harrison's turn to play well on the next deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠	Q 10 2		West	North	East	South
	♥	K 9 3 2		Harrison	Senior	Fenwick	Wolfarth
	♦	6 5		1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
	♣	A 7 6 4		2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
♠	K J 5		♠	A 6			
♥	Q J		♥	A 10 5 4			
♦	K 10 8 4		♦	A J 9 3			
♣	K J 5 3		♣	10 9 2			
	♠	9 8 7 4 3					
	♥	8 7 6					
	♦	Q 7 2					
	♣	Q 8					

I didn't have a particularly obvious lead from the North hand and eventually plumped for the two of hearts. This ran round to declarer's queen and Harrison crossed to the ace of diamonds to play the ten of clubs. Wolfarth covered so it went queen, king, duck. When declarer continued with a second club towards dummy's nine I ducked again, hoping that maybe he would play a third round, when I would come to two tricks in the suit. No, when the club nine held the trick, Harrison switched his attention to diamonds, finessing against the queen then leading the jack of hearts to the king and ace. When he cashed the diamonds I was squeezed, forced to first throw the low club then the two of spades.

Declarer cashed the ten of hearts then played ace of spades followed by a spade to the king, dropping the queen, and the jack of spades was his twelfth trick for a handy +690.

This trend continued for the rest of the match. When we defended, we took the minimum number of tricks available, while both their declarers took the maximum, leaving us outplayed and heavily outscored.