

Brian's Brighton The Summer Meeting 2015

Wednesday 19th – Words Fail Me!

Sometimes, the bridge can be so bad that there are no words to describe how bad it is. For obvious reasons, West at the second table on this deal from the Mixed Pivot Teams will remain anonymous.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

South's 4♥ opening put E/W under pressure and they misjudged - 4♥ would have been down one off the top, while 5♣ was two down for -200. That looked to be an average-plus result for N/S and they moved onto the next deal feeling quite happy with life.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
2♥	3♥	4NT	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♠	Dble	6♣	Dble
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

West began with a truly disgusting Michaels bid, spades and a minor. Personally, I wouldn't make the bid at favourable vulnerability, let alone the actual vulnerable against not. North made a pre-emptive raise of the five-card opening and East bid 4NT to ask for partner's minor. However, South bid 5♥ so West was no longer obligated to bid and passed, West's first and last intelligent action on the deal.

East doubled for penalty but West, away in fairyland, took it to be for take-out so bid the spades, and now the doubling started. West finally alighted in 6♦ doubled, which looks to be between one and two off on normal play and defence.

North led a heart so declarer won and cashed the ace and king of clubs, pitching the heart from hand. Now West led dummy's low spade! This looks a bit surreal, but there was more to come. South won the bare king and gave a ruff and discard, West ruffing in dummy and attempting to cash the ace of spades. South ruffed and gave a second ruff and discard, West this time ruffing in hand. Now declarer played the queen of spades - I promised that there was more to come - and South took a second ruff. Now South played a fourth heart and North could ruff with the bare king and there was still the ace of diamonds to come. The contract was down four for -1100.

So, West turned +300 into -1100, or +11 IMPs into -14 IMPs. If any one player has had a more expensive board than this one, please let me know - it won't be easy.