

## Grand Slam

The Hinden team are perennial contenders in the later stages of the main event in Stratford but this year they lost one of their two lives in the Round 1 & 2 triangles. A solid win in Round 3 was followed by what was, on paper, a tough draw in Round 4. Hinden led by 23 at half-way and doubled their advantage in the third set. 11 IMPs came on this deal where Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne bid a cold slam which was missed at the other table.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hinden		Osborne	
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

One Spade promised five and 2♥ was game-forcing with hearts. Now 2NT showed six spades and 3♥ showed a powerful heart suit. In that context, the bare jack looked to Osborne to be sufficient support for hearts that, with his good controls in the side suits, he cuebid 4♣. When Hinden in turn cuebid 4♦, Osborne judged that he had done sufficient so signed off, leaving any further move to his partner. But Hinden was not done yet. Her 4♠ was not a cuebid, actually asking for key cards, and the 4NT response showed one. Knowing that there was only one key card missing, Hinden jumped to 6♥ and, after winning the club lead in hand, could cash the ♥J, cross to the ♠Q and draw the rest of the trumps. The even spade split meant all 13 tricks for +1010 and 11 IMPs. It was just as well that Hinden added to their lead in this set because Set 4 had all the swing deals that a chasing team required and Hinden dropped 39 IMPs to a mixture of good bridge and lucky bridge – a dangerous combination. However, they had held on to win by 7 IMPs and moved on to the next round.