

Last match of the weekend

So far the afternoon has brought three wins, and we have moved from table 7 to 5 to 3 and are now on table 1 to play the current leaders, Brian Senior, Geoff Wolfarth, Nevena Senior and Sandra Penfold. To add to the tension there is a kibitzer at the table.

The most interesting board was towards the end of the match.

Board 31

Bidding

N	E	S	W
		1C *	P
1H	P	1NT	P
2C	P	2S	P
4S	P	P	P

* alerted

My hand was

T 6 5 2
Q T 7
K 8 4
9 8 2

An explanation of the bidding revealed that S had four spades, may have 4 clubs, max 14 points.

N seems to have two four card majors and I am not sure what to lead.

I decide on club 9, as I didn't want to lead away from my holdings in the other suits.

Dummy went down with

S A K J 7
H J 8 4 2
D J x
C Q J x

My first thought was that I had killed partner's honour again! The first trick was won in hand by ten, with partner playing the three. As we show count, playing small from three, I worked out that declarer probably has four clubs. At this point partner thinks I have a doubleton. Play continues with a spade to the ace, partner playing nine, and then a heart back to South's ace. Small heart towards the table and I rose with the queen, winning the trick. It was time to stop and think.

I returned the ten of hearts, because I know that partner has both king and nine. This was ruffed by South. Spade led to the king of spades, on which partner shows out, and then the last heart led from dummy, which South ruffs with queen of spades. I discard a small club.

King of clubs from South and, probably much to everyone's surprise, I follow. I am even

more surprised when partner wins with the ace! Now comes a club from partner and I ruff.

Three tricks to us, is there another one? I count declarer's hand, his points and decide that, if declarer has four clubs he can discard the diamond, on points my partner should have queen of diamonds, so I lead a small diamond. Declarer has to give us a diamond trick for one off and +100 to us. Declarer had four spades, two hearts, four diamonds and three clubs.

It is better to exit with a spade and then there is no chance of losing our diamond trick, if we have one. This was pointed out and I replied that it was the end of a very long, tiring day.

The club lead at trick one, with partner holding up the ace, seems to have worked to our advantage on this hand. Partner expected me to have a doubleton club, so what did declarer think? On the play at the table his second club trick disappeared and with two red aces, one club, two heart ruffs and four spades he was one trick short.

When we scored up it was 12 imp swing to us as Mike had made 4S, on a spade lead. This board contributed to our 18-2 win and we had an agonising wait to find out the score at table 2. It was a 19-1 win for Jon Williams and team mates, which meant that we had come second by 2 VP's. So close!