

# Mountnessing Bridge Club

## Brilliant play – but a pity about the bidding!

**Hand played on** 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009 – The George Curtis Swiss Teams  
**Board number** 22  
**Dealer** East  
**Vulnerability** EW Vulnerable  
**Submitted by** Alaric Cundy

	<b>North</b> ♠ Q9 ♥ KQ3 ♦ AQ8654 ♣ T2																																
<b>West</b> ♠ KT87 ♥ JT ♦ T72 ♣ QJ65	<b>East</b> ♠ 6542 ♥ 987654 ♦ K3 ♣ 7	<b>Bidding:</b>																															
		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">South</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">West</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♥ A2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♦ J9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♣ AK9843</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		North	East	South	West	<b>South</b>		No	1♣	No	♠ AJ3	1♦	No	2NT	No	♥ A2	4♣	No	4♠	x	♦ J9	5♣	No	5♥	No	♣ AK9843	6NT	No	7NT	End	
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It is a great pity for North / South that on this board a mis-bid more than cancelled out the effects of some really good Declarer play.

In the other room, North / South subsided in a much less ambitious contract of 3NT. There, Declarer looked to the club suit as a source of extra tricks, but after an initial heart lead, the bad lie of the outstanding clubs meant that Declarer was restricted to 10 tricks for a score of +430.

Things were much more interesting in our room! North's 4♣ bid was Gerber and the 4♠ response showed 2 Aces. West's double was lead-directing. Undeterred, North bid on to 6NT, but unfortunately South then decided to make up for having previously under-counted the Aces by giving it 'one for the road'.

The ♥J lead was run round to Declarer's ace, and at that point Declarer made the decision to play on Dummy's diamonds rather than on her own clubs, so the Jack

was run ... to East's King. Well, that was immediate curtains for this optimistic contract, but don't let a small detail like that spoil your admiration of what followed...

East dutifully led a spade, and, realising that the spade finesse was wrong, Declarer rose with the Ace. Declarer then ran off all of Dummy's diamonds and the King of hearts, to leave this 4-card ending, with the lead in Dummy (North):

North	
♠ Q	
♥ Q	
♦	
♣ T2	
West	East
♠ K	♠
♥	♥
♦	Immaterial
♣	♦
QJ5	♣
South	
♠ J	
♥	
♦	
♣ AK9	

By this point East had lost interest in this hand, but when the ♥Q was led from Dummy, Declarer threw the ♠J, but West was in much trouble, being the victim of a genuine 'squeeze' play. If the ♠K was discarded, then Dummy's ♠Q became a winner; in practice West threw a club, but now when Declarer played clubs from the top the nine became good and Declarer wrapped up a total of 12 tricks.

Would the play have been the same in 6NT? Almost certainly yes, so South's mis-bid turned a potential moment of glory into a disaster... Be that as it may, one still has to applaud Declarer's play!