

Mountnessing Bridge Club

The non-fitter of the year?

Hand played on 9th April 2009
Board number 12 – RED SECTION
Dealer West
Vulnerability NS Vulnerable
Submitted by Frank Tomlin

	North ♠ AK72 ♥ AK ♦ KQJ8432 ♣ -			
West ♠ QJ83 ♥ Q73 ♦ AT97 ♣ 62		East ♠ T954 ♥ JT84 ♦ 65 ♣ Q83	Bidding:	
			North	East South West
	South ♠ 6 ♥ 9562 ♦ - ♣ AKJT9754			Not recorded

Many apologies that it has taken such a long time to publish this very cruel board that cropped up at the club in April 2009. The associated traveller is available as part of the results for the Red Section, April 9th. The hand was played seven times, in three different slam level contracts, each of which was held to nine tricks. 6♦ was the most popular resting place – the choice of 5 pairs, but not once was it doubled – possibly because West was frightened that they might ‘run’ to a more successful contract. One rather fortunate West decided to double the opponent’s 7♦ contract and so collected a top with a score of +1100. The final pair tried 6NT – but that also fell three tricks short.

So, with the benefit of the passage of five months, and with sight of all four hands, could these disasters have been averted?

Firstly, North has an interesting choice of opening bid. 1♦ looks a feeble choice, and if the option is open to North, he might try to describe it as ‘8 playing tricks in diamonds’, though a game-forcing opening would be understandable, albeit slightly shaded. After a strong opening from North, it is easy to see how things got too high!

Interestingly, nobody played the hand in clubs, which in the normal course of events yields 11 tricks, but were West to try the Ace of diamonds at trick 1, that becomes 12... Can you suggest a realistic route to a contract of 5♣?