

# Mountnessing Bridge Club

## One to dine out on...

**Hand played on** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
**Board number** Teams of Four – South East Essex League  
**Dealer** West  
**Vulnerability** NS Vulnerable  
**Submitted by** Alaric Cundy

<b>North</b> ♠ xx ♥ AQxxx ♦ JTxx ♣ JT					
<b>West</b> ♠ AT987 ♥ x ♦ Qx ♣ KQxxx	<b>East</b> ♠ KQxx ♥ x ♦ Ax ♣ A9xxxx	<b>Bidding:</b>			
		<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>South</b> ♠ Jx ♥ KJxxxx ♦ Kxxxx ♣ void					1♠ 4♣ 5♠ No No
		No	2NT	No	
		No	4NT	No	
		No	7♠	x	No
		No	7NT	No	No
		x	End		

The West player who orchestrated this atrocious coup wishes to rename anonymous! The player concerned is seen quite regularly at Mountnessing.

The bidding started calmly enough. East's 2NT was alerted – showing game values with at least 4-card spade support. West's 4♣ bid was natural, showing a second suit that was at least five cards long and contained at least two of the top three. East's 4NT was a routine Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) enquiry. It was at this point that West drifted off into some other universe. The partnership agreement was that in the absence of a suit agreement then the RKCB enquiry was based on the last naturally bid suit. West quietly ignored the "... in the absence of a suit agreement ..." bit, and looking down at the 4♣ card on the table in front of him, he told his partner that he had two out of five 'Aces' plus the queen of trumps.

East could barely contain himself! Though seemingly it was impossible for West to hold the Queen of Spades, another partnership agreement was that if there is a known fit of at least ten cards then responder can 'lie' about the queen of trumps. So

East had just shown a hand that included six spades to the Ace, five clubs to the King, Queen, plus the Ace of hearts. The 13<sup>th</sup> card was immaterial, so North confidently bid 7♠, expecting partner to claim the contract at trick 1. When South chipped in with the double, then, even if West had gone to sleep, East hadn't, and realising that there would be a first-round club-ruff, he removed to 7NT. [Some might say he should have bid that in the first place, but I wouldn't like to criticise East on this hand...] Looking at the Ace in his hand, North kept the ball rolling by contributing another double to end the auction.

The spotlight now falls on South, who, not having a clue what was going on, had to find a lead. Both red suits looked very dangerous – as it happens the choice of a diamond would concede the contract immediately, but a heart would have changed the course of history. South selected a safe lead of the ♠J.

Declarer started by cashing five spades followed by four clubs, leaving this 4-card ending:

	North	
	♠	
	♥ A	
	♦ JTx	
	♣	
West		East
♠		♠
♥ x		♥
♦ Qx		♦ Ax
♣ x		♣ A9
	South	
	♠	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ Kx	
	♣ void	

When the fifth club was played South was in some difficulty, but made the unfortunate choice of parting with the small diamond. When the sixth club was led, South completed the formalities by discarding the King of diamonds, allowing Declarer to claim. 7NT doubled making, not vulnerable, comes to 1790 - to save you looking it up. Though South made the unfortunate choice of discard, North must take some of the blame for not signalling his top heart more clearly.

In the other room the hand was played in a boring 4S+2, yielding a swing of 16 IMPS. You don't need to be a clone of Einstein to work out that on an initial heart lead the contract fails by six tricks, or 1400, for what could have been a swing of 18 IMPS the other way. So 34 IMPS hung on the defence of this contract. At the end of the evening East found himself on the winning side, though with a margin of rather less than 34 IMPS...

I see a fair bit of dining out in the offing...