

Trumps Spring Teams

23 SEPTEMBER 2018 (SUN)



Swinging both ways on a Grand Slam

Match 3 Board 23

Dealer S | Vul All

<p>♠ 752 ♥ 7652 ♦ 963 ♣ 842</p>		<p>♠ KJT ♥ AJT9 ♦ K7 ♣ KT63</p> <p>♠ Q986 ♥ Q843 ♦ Q82 ♣ J9</p>
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<p>♠ A43 ♥ K ♦ AJT54 ♣ AQ75</p>

by Derrick Browne

W	N	E	S
			1D
P	1H	P	3C
P	4C	P	4D
P	4H	P	5H
P	5S	P	6NT
P	7C	//	

On this board, a local Trumps pair, Peter Fitzmaurice (South) and Neil Williams (North) were the only ones to reach what was probably the best spot, 7♣ – though they confessed to a couple of points of confusion!

With E-W silent, the bidding was

- 1♦ - 1♥ - 3♣
- 4♣ (setting clubs as trumps and requesting keycards)
- 4♦ (0 or 3 keycards)
- 4♥ (trump Q ask)
- 5♥ (yes, plus the Heart K)
- 5♠ (describe your Spade honours)



The system response here is 5NT (nothing to add). At this stage S inadvertently bid 6NT rather than 5NT!! Understandably, this non system response caused N some confusion. After some thought, N decided that this was a very encouraging bid, and bid 7♣.

A spade lead flushed out the spade Q, removing any issues with that suit. With clubs and diamonds behaving, declarer was able to draw trumps, then play ♦K, ♦A and ruff a diamond for 13 tricks.

In what was doubtless a guilty reaction at having stumbled into a making Grand Slam, South then generously scored the board as 7♣ to E/W. Fortunately, this was detected by eagle-eyed teammates and subsequently corrected by the director.

Only one other pair reached grand slam, but they stumbled into 7♦ by South. This looks set to make, with the normal play in diamonds being ♦K then a diamond finesse. Yet South instead led the ♦10 from hand, and ran it. Why?

To understand the reason, one needs to know that the usual lead against a grand slam is a trump. This time West, Steven Bock, did not lead one and the expert declarer wondered why not. Surely it was because Steven held the ♦Q, which would make a diamond lead silly! Declarer followed through with this analysis and played West for the DQ, by finessing through him. Sensible reasoning, but not a success, turning what would have been a hefty pickup (for 6NT was played at the other table) into a hefty loss.

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