

Trumps March Teams

3 March 2019 (Sun)



Unusual Contracts

by Derrick Browne

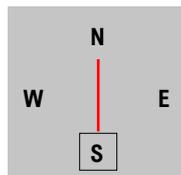
The Trumps March Teams Congress was won by Karen McCallum, Axel Johannsson, Arthur Ramer and Kevin Davies, with second place going to Warren Dobes, Witold Chylewski, Peter Jeffery and Yumin Li. The top two teams clashed on the following deal, where 1660 was scored... at both tables, for a flat board!

Board 15

Dealer S | Vul N-S

♠ AKT8
♥ Q865
♦ A8
♣ J83

♠ 4
♥ T972
♦ KJT932
♣ T4



♠ 93
♥
♦ 7654
♣ AKQ9652

♠ QJ7652
♥ AKJ43
♦ Q
♣ 7

W	N	E	S
			1C
3D	4D	5D	?

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	6	6	-
S	-	-	6	6	-
E	4	5	-	-	-
W	4	5	-	-	-

South opens 1♠, and at this vulnerability, most of the leading West players ventured a 3♦ preempt. North often now bid 4♦ to show a strong spade raise, over which East bid 5♦. It is now hard for South to sensibly investigate slam, but of the 18 times the board was played, on 13 occasions South finished as declarer in the spade small slam. (At four tables, South finished in 4♠ or 5♠, and at one table, East sacrificed in 7♣, doubled of course.)

Back to our winners. After a couple of rounds of bidding, East (Yumin Li) was in 6♣, which was passed around to world champion Karen McCallum, North, who went on to 6♠. Yumin doubled, intending this as a Lightner double, asking partner to make an unusual lead – in this case a heart, for him to ruff.

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Congratulations to the winners – Arthur Ramer, Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum and Kevin Davies.



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The Lightner double also occurred at the other table in this match. In both instances, West misread the double and led the C10. Even top players do not always work out what is going on, and this was also evidenced by the fact that neither declarer recognised the need to cover the C10 with the CJ, which would have defused the ruff. Our East players now discouraged, but neither West, upon holding the lead, found the heart switch. When clubs were continued, 12 tricks were easy. Even the post-mortems followed similar lines, with each East suggesting to North that they should swap partnerships, leaving the Souths and Wests to play together! Of the 17 times that South played the hand in spades, 12 tricks were made 14 times, with only three pairs holding declarer to 11 tricks. While our top two tables wrapped up 1660 points for 6♠ doubled, there was one even more unusual contract, 2070 points for making 6♠ redoubled! That went to Bob Sebesfi and Richard Douglas, whose team (with Wayne Zhu and Ranjit Limaye) came third.

[...More results can be found HERE](#)