

bit better. Look at what happens to East who has to find 3 discards. Suppose East discards just one spade (and wouldn't you be tempted?). Then declarer can establish the fourth spade in the North hand. Indeed, if East discards a spade, declarer may judge that it is West who holds the ♠Q; and if declarer plays spades from the top they will make at least 10 tricks!

3 Hospice tournament

A good turnout of 16 tables for the Hospice tournament on 19 May saw Stewart and Christine Kerr carry off top place with a score of 64%. Close behind them were Marion Dent - Elaine MacDonald and Robin Gillespie - Noeline Dean both pairs with scores above 60%. The only slam hand of the tournament was

Board 6	♠A3	
East dealer	♥A43	
EW vul	♦AQT3	
	♣AT85	
♠642		♠QT95
♥QT9		♥865
♦942		♦J8765
♣7642		♣Q
	♠KJ87	
	♥KJ72	
	♦K	
	♣KJ93	

Every pair except one bid to a small slam usually in not-trumps. Only about half made their contracts. How should it have been played? If you refer to my tip of the previous section you will realize that to play off a long suit - in this case clubs - could be helpful. Watch the discards - they will give you some good clues. In this case East's discard may well help. East can spare one diamond and should discard two hearts as well - if they discard a spade then the declarer may finesse in spades and make all thirteen tricks. In any case there is plenty of time to try both major suit finesses

4 A record score

We all know how hard it is to score 60% or more in a pairs game. The reason has to do with what mathematicians call the Central Limit Theorem but we can ignore that. A score of 65% would be reason for some celebration and a score of 70% might occur only a handful of times in a lifetime. So when Alec Ansett and Irene Morrison scored 75% in the Wednesday 15 May game history was being made. What a fantastic and rare score. Congratulations to Alec and Irene.

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