

1 From the Championship Pairs

The 2014 Championship Pairs was won by Robert Cowan and John Sheehy whose average score of 63% easily beat runners up Judy Robertson and Kaye Wilson. Well done Robert and John! They were one of the pairs to bid 6♣ on Board 18.

Board 18	♠ AJT4
East dealer	♥ AT
NS vul	♦ AK63
	♣ K53

♠ 653
♥ KJ65
♦ 987
♣ A64

W N
E
S

♠ 987
♥ Q98743
♦ QT54
♣ void

♠ KQ2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ J2
 ♣ QJT9872

This is a marvelous contract offering very few play problems. The only problem is in the bidding! If South starts with 3♣ it ought to be straightforward; indeed North might raise immediately to 6♣. North could reasonably expect South to have seven clubs including the Ace and can therefore count 11 tricks. There would be many chances for a 12th trick including the possibility of ruffing a heart in dummy. As it happens South does not have ♣A but does have sufficient compensating values.

North must have enjoyed picking up her hand on Board 4:

Board 4	♠ Q9
West dealer	♥ AQ
Both vul	♦ AKQJ
	♣ AK952

♠ J32
 ♥ KJT82
 ♦ 6542
 ♣ 3

♠ Q9
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ AKQJ
 ♣ AK952

W N
S E

♠ A86
♥ 7543
♦ 7
♣ JT864

♠ KT754
 ♥ 96
 ♦ T983
 ♣ Q7

The best contract is 6♣ which is totally secure. After drawing trumps, South's losing spades can be discarded on the top diamonds, two spades can then be ruffed and the heart finesse then gives an overtrick. There is perhaps more interest in the contract 6NT. Since there are 11 tricks on top we need an extra trick from somewhere. This can come either from leading towards the ♠Q hoping West has ♠K or from the heart finesse. You can have a go at both of these chances but, of course, you must try spades before hearts.

As in the previous hand most of the problems are in the bidding. The most realistic sequence would be

2♣ - 2♦ - 3♣ - 4♣ - 4NT - 5♦ - 6♣

In this sequence 4♣ is *not* Gerber and 4NT is Blackwood.

2 Club news and comments

AGM The full AGM report is available on the website or a copy on the notice board of the club rooms. The meeting was attended by 17 people with 10 apologies. We would like to welcome Judith Smeijers on to committee and we also thank Colleen Fletcher for her service on the committee. A motion was agreed to change the rule that limited the number of general committee members. Now if any others would like to join the committee we now have space for you and would welcome your input.

It was also agreed that Wednesday night start time for 2015 year will be 7.15 p.m. rather than 7.30 so that both nights are consistent.

A big thank you to Judy Robertson who has been our treasurer for 15 years — well done Judy.

There has also been a change in the programme that will allow you to have a substitute for some of the competitions — look out for the new programme book.

Christmas Party The theme for the Christmas party is “Dress to Impress”. Members are to bring a plate of food. See you on Wednesday 17th December. Don’t forget to return any trophies if you were lucky enough to get one last year.

Instruction Evening We will be running an instruction evening on Tuesday 27th January for members that would consider being a director on club nights plus how to set the computer up before the start of play. Please let one of the committee members know if you are interested in attending.

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