

## WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

**Dealer:** W **Vul:** Both

<b>NORTH</b>	
♠	K10642
♥	Q842
♦	K
♣	Q108
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠	AQ873
♥	K
♦	A1094
♣	A65
<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠	--
♥	A10973
♦	J87652
♣	73



*Noela Collins, Mavis Simpson John Nankervis  
and Pat Kelly in action last Friday*

On Board 4 last Friday all East/West pairs played in spades, three reaching a contract of 4S with West as declarer. All failed, sometimes by three tricks. Where did it go all wrong? The popular lead was the King of diamonds, which would normally have promised the Queen, but may have been a singleton. Bridge players love leading a suit in which they hold one card – in the hope that partner will lead back a card from that suit that can be trumped. Declarer has no choice but to win with the Ace. The fate of the contract now hangs on declarer's next action. The winning line is to play a small spade towards the Jack, hoping to find the King with North. If North plays low, especially after North pauses for thought, declarer should not waste the Jack. The five would do, but the nine is a more likely choice. If North plays the King, then declarer can later finesse against the ten.

The five-nil split in trumps is exposed when South does not follow suit. The correct tactic in this circumstance is not to play any more trumps from the long hand (West). As the cards lie, the Ace of clubs can be played and then a low club sent towards the Jack, which holds. East's King wins and a fourth club is led. North can trump in, but now has only hearts and spades and must give declarer the advantage with whatever is led. There are lots of twists and turns possible, but the play to avoid is stripping dummy (East) of trumps too early. North/South can win only one heart and two trumps.

Lois James and Sandra were the only pair to make ten tricks. Ironically, they stopped at 3S. Still, plus 170 was still enough to score a top E/W.

Results:

**Monday, 22/01/24** (6-table Mitchell): N/S L. James S. Head (54.3) 1; N. Bonnell J. Smith (53.7) 2; C. Harris L. Don (53.0) 3. E/W H. Price R. Hart (62.7) 1; W. Milne J. Sipple (60.0) 2; B. Warren M. Warren (51.7) 3.

**Friday, 26/01/24** (4½-table Howell): P. Kelly M. Simpson (61.8) 1; T. Hinde J. Mobbs (59.0) 2; N. Bonnell B. Bonnell (54.2) 3 eq; N. Collins J. Nankervis (54.2) 3 eq.