

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

Dealer: W Vul: Both

NORTH		
♠ A98		
♥ K10654		
♦ 2		
♣ 10985		
WEST	EAST	
♠ --	♠ K732	
♥ J62	♥ 93	
♦ AKQJ10653	♦ 984	
♣ Q2	♣ AKJ7	
SOUTH		
♠ QJ10654		
♥ AQ2		
♦ 7		
♣ 643		



John Nankervis and Pat Kelly, winners of the Monday Red Point Event, playing against Nea McGinness and Ros Hart

There comes a time in bridge when you must throw out complicated bidding systems and just trust your instincts. Board 20 (above from last Friday) is an example. West's diamonds are so strong that eight tricks can be won in that suit but possibly none in the other suits. There are a couple of ways to open the bidding with West's hand. Standard American bidders could open 2C (artificial) to show a hand worth eight certain tricks or could just open a quiet 1D to see what partner has to offer. Another approach would be to open 4D, inviting partner to bid 5D or higher.

At one table, West did open 1D, to which partner responded 1S. This was not particularly encouraging, so West simply jumped to 5D. East took the plunge and raised the bidding to 6D, requiring declarer to win twelve tricks. Now the spotlight switched to North, who avoided the fatal lead of the Ace of spades, which would have allowed West to win all thirteen tricks. North now had one chance in three to choose the killing lead. The sensible, but unsuccessful, ten of clubs landed on the table. Declarer allowed this to run around to the Queen, then played just one round of trumps and cashed dummy's three club winners. Two heart losers were discarded on East's clubs, leaving declarer with just one losing heart. Twelve tricks were won for a score of 1370. No other pair reached this contract, although diamond contracts were played at all tables. Four out of five North players made the opening lead of the ten of clubs. At the fifth table, North found the only suit which would hold declarer to eleven tricks, Against all the principles of orthodox bridge, North led the unsupported King of hearts. When this won, another heart was played to partner's Ace. How did North know that partner had the Ace of heart? Probably just a hunch.

Results

Monday, 24/02/25 (Rd, 2 Red point event; 5-table Mitchell) N/S N. Collins M. Simpson (59.1)1; J. Smith L. Munson (55.0) 2. E/W P. Kelly J. Nankervis (69.6) 1; J. Rose C. Hall (50.8) 2. Overall: J. Nankervis P. Kelly 1; N. Collins M. Simpson 2; L. Don T. Hinde 3.

Friday, 28/02/25 (5½-table Howell): N. Collins N. Bonnell (73.6) 1; T. Hinde J. Mobbs (62.5) 2; M. Simpson P. Kelly (58.8) 3; J. Smith H. Price (50.0) 4.