

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

Dealer: W Vul: E/W

NORTH		
♠ 1096		
♥ --		
♦ J107		
♣ KQJ9652		
WEST	EAST	
♠ KJ87	♠ 5	
♥ 94	♥ AQ1087653	
♦ AQ98	♦ K62	
♣ 1084	♣ A	
SOUTH		
♠ AQ432		
♥ KJ2		
♦ 543		
♣ 73		



Ros Hart & Claire Duggan join Mayor Melissa Hamilton during the afternoon tea break

The Bridge Club was pleased to entertain Mayor Melissa Hamilton, to afternoon tea last Monday and to show her some interesting bridge.

Sometimes in bridge it is better to win by losing, as we shall see from Board 16 from last Monday. It also helps if your opponents make bad choices. East's lead of the Ace of hearts when defending against 5C doubled is one of the most unsuccessful leads ever made. North and East had traded blows in clubs and hearts until North won the auction with a bid of 5C, which was doubled. North was prepared to accept a moderate loss in order to prevent East from earning a bonus for making ten tricks in 4H.

By leading the Ace of hearts, East was obviously trying to win a heart trick before it disappeared. This choice converted a probable top score into a bottom. Declarer was able to trump the Ace and thereby promote South's King. Further damage to the defence was that dummy now held the King-Jack of hearts over East's Queen-ten. In one fell swoop an eight-card suit had been neutralized. Declarer could now cross to dummy's Ace of spades, then cash the King of hearts and discard a diamond. Now it was time to take out the defender's trumps. Back on lead with the Ace of clubs, East could make the lead which should have been chosen at the start. The defence would then win two diamonds and two spades. North/South's failure in their doubled contract had cost them 500 matchpoints, but this was less than the 620 or 650 made by East/West at the other tables. North/South's ploy gave them 100% on this board. An opening lead of a diamond would have given East/West the top score of 800 matchpoints. A fascinating (frustrating) aspect of bridge is that next time a defender may hold the singleton of hearts and it will be right to lead the Ace.

Results

Monday, 18/05/26 (4-table Howell): N. Collins M. Simpson (60.1) 1; P. Kelly L. Munson (58.3) 2; T. Hinde L. Don (56.5) 3.

Friday, 22/05//26 (4½-table Howell) T. Hinde L. Don (63.5) 1; G. Schmidt I. House (56.2) 2; N. Collins L. Munson (56.7) 3.