

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

Dealer: W **Vul:** Both

NORTH

♠ Q74
♥ Q96
♦ Q103
♣ K1072

WEST

♠ A32
♥ A754
♦ AK2
♣ AJ4

EAST

♠ KJ986
♥ J32
♦ 54
♣ 985

SOUTH

♠ 105
♥ K108
♦ J9876
♣ Q63



*John Rose (centre rear) and Pat Kelly
playing against Stanthorpe guests,
Terry Cadman and Keith Barnett*

Bridge is a game of counting. You count your high card points, you count how many certain winners you hold as well as how many potential losers there are. If you are good enough, you count how many high cards your opponents play. On Board 4 last Monday, John Rose was the only player to bid and make 3NT. Not surprisingly, West became declarer at all tables and all received the lead of the two of clubs. This found West's weakest suit.

Once dummy (East) was displayed, declarer could count only six certain tricks, but spades could provide more if declarer made the right choices. John could see that if North held three spades, including the Queen, he could win five spades, to go with one heart, two diamonds and one Club. He therefore won the first trick with the Ace of clubs and followed with the Ace of spades. Next came a low spade to the Jack of spades, which held. Now the King of spades dropped the Queen and John could win the nine tricks he needed. Clearly, the other Wests who played in no-trumps failed to follow the same line of play and none won more than eight tricks. The one player who bid 4S did follow the correct line of play as John but could only manage to win the same nine tricks instead of the required ten. That cost 100 points, whereas stopping in 3S would have been the second top score.

Results,

Monday, 21/09/21 (5½-table Howell): N. Collins M. Simpson (65.7)1; P. Campbell T. Hinde (55.6)2; J. Smith L. Munson (53.7) 3; P. Kelly J. Rose (52.7) 4.

Friday, 25/09/26 (4½-table Howell): T. Hinde L. Don (65.1) 1; N. Bonnell S. Head (58.3) 2; N. Collins P. Kelly (57.3) 3; H. Price D. Hambly (54.7) 4.