

Ingleburn Teams 2016

Three tales of the king of diamonds

by RAKESH KUMAR



Rakesh Kumar describes himself as an enthusiastic non-expert who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns.

The very pleasant Ingleburn Teams Congress once again had a good turnout, with 20 teams representing a broad cross-section of the bridge-playing community.

After 3 of the 6 rounds, the contenders jostling for the top places were *Witold CHYLEWSKI - Wayne Zhu - John Scotford - Yumin Li, Ernie NEWMAN - Dennis Raymond - Eric Lindh - Patricia Phillips, Judy ZHU - Shu Liang Yang - Andrew Wu - Vicky Wei* and *Steven BOCK - Les Grewcock - Kevin Davies - Rakesh Kumar*. There wasn't a great deal of excitement in the first 3 rounds, although there was one slam hand, which depended on successfully finessing the ♦K:

Board 10

Dealer E | Vul All

♠ JT65 ♥ 86 ♦ K94 ♣ J963	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>+</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	+	E		S		♠ Q9 ♥ AQT32 ♦ AJ63 ♣ K2 ♠ 7432 ♥ 9 ♦ T752 ♣ AT74 ♠ AK8 ♥ KJ754 ♦ Q8 ♣ Q85
	N										
W	+	E									
	S										

16
5 4
15

W	N	E	S
		P	1NT
P	2D!	P	3H
P	4D	P	4S
P	4NT	P	5H
P	6H		

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	4	6	2	5
S	2	4	6	2	5
E	–	–	–	–	–
W	–	–	–	–	–

Reaching 6♥ ought not to be too difficult, whether South begins with a 15-17 hcp 1NT opening followed by a super-accept in response to North's 2♦ transfer, or South opens 1♥, North responds 2NT Jacoby and South reveals a flat hand with extra strength. However, it requires a bit of courage: 7 North-South pairs demonstrated that they had enough to get there.

There was much more excitement on the next round, when we faced the ever-formidable Peter Gill. This was my hand:

East

♠ A985
 ♥ J
 ♦ AT9842
 ♣ T2

W	N	Me	S
1S	4H	4S	P
P	5C	5S	6C
P	P	X	

Kevin Davies opened 1♠ and Peter, sitting North, overcalled 4♥. I bid 4♠, of course, and when this was passed back to Peter, he continued with 5♣. With my long diamond suit looking better by the minute, I decided to bid 5♠ just in case it could make – and his partner Liz Sylvester bid 6♣!! I now doubled. What will you lead?

While you think about that, what will you do with this hand if partner opens a weak 2 in hearts or a multi-2D and, on inquiry, shows a maximum hand with a 6-card heart suit?

♠ AK853
 ♥ AQ864
 ♦ A
 ♣ K8

Back to the previous hand. On the grounds that Peter almost certainly had a void somewhere (it sounded like he might have a 7-5 hand and Liz surely had 4+ support for clubs) there was a fair chance that one of my aces wouldn't cash and that the king of that suit might turn up in dummy, providing a discard for a loser. Which ace was the safer lead? I eventually decided to hope for the ♠K with partner, and laid down the ♠A. This held, so now I tried the ♦A – which Peter ruffed, pointing out that if I had led that first, he would have made his doubled contract, because the losing spade would be discarded on dummy's ♦K:

Board 16

Dealer W | Vul E-W

♠ KQ742 ♥ A9 ♦ Q7653 ♣ 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W — E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W — E	S	♠ T ♥ KQT8643 ♦ ♣ A9654 ♠ A985 ♥ J ♦ AT9842 ♣ T2 ♠ J63 ♥ 752 ♦ KJ ♣ KQJ83
N					
W — E					
S					

9
11 9
11

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	–	4	–	–
S	4	–	4	–	–
E	–	5	–	5	1
W	–	5	–	5	1

As it was he went one down, because of course the heart loser wasn't going to go away, but the potential swing was 23 IMPs – yikes!! Across the field, 9 North-South pairs made 5♥ (three of them were doubled) while 5 East-West pairs made 5♠. Our teammates, along with one other North-South pair, made 5♣. However, even that can go down on a heart lead and a heart ruff, followed by the ♠A.

Returning to the hand from round 5, surely you will bid 4NT RKCB. Partner informs you that he has the two missing key cards. What will you bid now?

Board 24

Dealer W | Vul None

♠ 6 ♥ KJT732 ♦ 853 ♣ A94	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W — E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W — E	S	♠ QJ9 ♥ 95 ♦ QT76 ♣ QJ76 ♠ AK853 ♥ AQ864 ♦ A ♣ K8 ♠ T742 ♥ ♦ KJ942 ♣ T532
N					
W — E					
S					

8
8 20
4

W	N	E	S
2H	P	4NT	P
5H	P	7H	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	–	1	–	–	–
S	–	1	–	–	–
E	1	–	7	5	5
W	1	–	7	5	5

I thought 7♥ was pretty automatic, so I bid it, and partner duly claimed at trick 1. Remarkably, only 2 other East-West pairs bid this grand slam. Despite the gain on this board, however, we had a near draw, so going into the sixth and final round the standings were (1) CHYLEWSKI (2) ZHU (3) BOCK and (4) NEWMAN.

As I said earlier, successful slam bidding needs some courage – and some luck. Here's your hand:

♠ AQJ
 ♥ T
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ KQ9854

Minorwood asking for keycards

W	N	E	S
			1D
P	2C	P	3C
P	4C	P	?

Partner kicks proceedings off with a 1♦ opening, you bid 2♣, and partner raises to 3♣. If you play 4-of-a-minor as Roman Keycard Blackwood (sometimes referred to as Minorwood) you can now inquire for keycards and learn that partner has two. Will you bid 6♣?

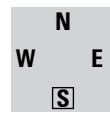
Playing against the ZHU team, our teammates did try for the slam, which needs only to find that ♦K on side once again – but this time luck was not with them and the finesse failed.

Board 31

Dealer S | Vul N-S

♠ T632
♥ 5432
♦ K97
♣ AJ

♠ AQJ
♥ T
♦ QJ6
♣ KQ9854



♠ K9875
♥ K876
♦ 43
♣ T3

♠ 4
♥ AQJ9
♦ AT852
♣ 762

15
8 6
11

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	5	2	1	4
S	5	5	2	1	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

At our table, North-South played in a completely unbeatable 3NT, so while our teammates' effort could have gained 12 IMPs, instead there was a negative swing of the same amount. That put paid to our hopes of winning the event, although we did finish fourth. Meanwhile the NEWMAN team thrashed their opponents in the last match, while the CHYLEWSKI team had to settle for a draw, so the final result was 1) NEWMAN 2) ZHU 3) CHYLEWSKI. Congratulations to the winners! 🎉