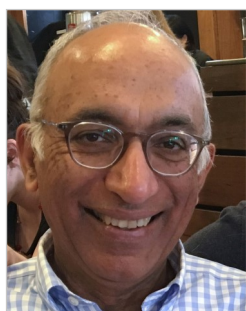


# Ingleburn Teams 2018

## There's truth in those old sayings

by RAKESH KUMAR



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

The Ingleburn Teams was won by BOCK (Steven Bock - Rakesh Kumar - Kevin Davies - Julian Abel) from HUMPHRIES (Susan Humphries - Helena Dawson - Colin Baker - Ann Baker) and ZHANG (Wei Zhang - Wayne Zhu - Witold Chylewski - Warren Dobes). Through the day, there were several interesting hands that posed problems in the bidding and play. Here are a few for you to chew over.

Firstly, as South you hold:

♠ K8  
♥ AQT2  
♦ Q76432  
♣ J

Not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, West deals and bids 3♠. Partner doubles, East passes and you bid 4♥. When this gets back around to East, s/he bids 5♣. What will you do?

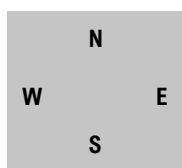
Secondly, with both vulnerable, you've dealt yourself this shapely hand and start proceedings with 1♣. LHO doubles, partner passes and East bids 2♥. What will you bid?

♠ 6  
♥ 4  
♦ AJ984  
♣ AKQ862

If you bid 3♦, West bids 3♥ and partner now bids 4♣, which is passed back to you. Will you do anything further?

Thirdly, as South you deal and open 1♥. After West's pass, North splinters with 3♠ and you sign off in 4♥. A spade is led to the queen and king. East returns the ♣9.

♠ Q  
♥ QT93  
♦ AJ87  
♣ K532



♠ T9  
♥ AJ862  
♦ Q6  
♣ AJ64

How will you play the hand?

Back to that first hand. The bidding lesson from Ingleburn was that those old aphorisms have quite a bit of validity. You have, of course, heard that "the 5-level belongs to the opponents". So did you pass, double, or bid either 5♦ or 5♥?

**Board 12**

Dealer W | Vul N-S

<p>♠ QJT7632 ♥ 963 ♦ 85 ♣ 6</p>		<p>♠ A95 ♥ KJ85 ♦ JT9 ♣ K54</p>
<p>♠ K8 ♥ AQT2 ♦ Q76432 ♣ J</p>		<p>♠ 4 ♥ 74 ♦ AK ♣ AQT98732</p>

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	4	-	1
S	-	3	4	-	1
E	3	-	-	2	-
W	3	-	-	2	-

I ignored the wisdom of the ancients and bid 5♦, which partner converted to 5♥. This duly went off, costing 9 IMPs because our opponents doubled East's 5♣ bid. So did 3 other North-South pairs, while 6 East-West pairs were allowed to play 5♣ undoubled.

Another old saying is "with 6-5 come alive!" and that certainly applied on the next hand. A bid of 3♦ should be more or less automatic over RHO's 2♥ bid. Considering that partner then managed to find a 4♣ bid, vulnerable, and you have a lot of trick-generating potential, a further raise to 5♣ seems very reasonable. The full hand turned out to be:

**Board 7**

Dealer S | Vul All

<p>♠ KQT4 ♥ KQ63 ♦ Q765 ♣ J</p>		<p>♠ J872 ♥ AT8 ♦ T2 ♣ T953</p>
<p>♠ 6 ♥ 4 ♦ AJ984 ♣ AKQ862</p>		<p>♠ A953 ♥ J9752 ♦ K3 ♣ 74</p>

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	2	-	-	2
S	5	2	-	-	2
E	-	-	4	3	-
W	-	-	4	3	-

With clubs 2-1 and diamonds 4-2, the 5♣ contract was cold. Across the field, 13 of 24 played in game, while one East-West pair chose to bid on to 5♥, which was duly doubled but proved to be a very cheap sacrifice.

At first glance, the 4♥ contract on the third hand looks very promising, with the potential for 12 tricks if all 3 finesses work and the suits break! However, there's something fishy about the return of the ♣9. This could be a singleton and things could go very wrong if the trump finesse fails and East gets to ruff a club, because then even if the ♦K is on side, there will still be a club to lose and the contract will be defeated.



**Board 3**

Dealer S | Vul E-W

♠ Q  
♥ QT93  
♦ AJ87  
♣ K532

♠ J843  
♥ K5  
♦ K93  
♣ QT87

	N	
W	—	E
	S	

♠ T9  
♥ AJ862  
♦ Q6  
♣ AJ64

♠ AK7652  
♥ 74  
♦ T542  
♣ 9

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	4	-	-
S	3	-	4	-	-
E	-	-	-	2	1
W	-	-	-	2	1

The solution is to play for safety and hope that at least the diamond finesse works. So at trick 3, I led a heart off the table and played the ace, followed by a small heart to West's king. The spade continuation was ruffed in dummy. When I played a small club from dummy, East did show out, so with trumps breaking 2-2, the above nasty scenario would indeed have come to pass. But now what? Well, following suit with a low club from hand concedes a cheap trick to West, but he is endplayed: he cannot continue the suit into the ace-jack, nor can he return a spade as this gives a ruff-and-discard, so he has to play a diamond.

At our table, West found the most awkward return by playing the ♦K. However, a top heart was available as a re-entry to dummy, so the remaining club loser could still be discarded on the ♦J for 10 tricks. I was happy to have found my way through the traps on this hand! Subsequent analysis using Deep Finesse confirmed that on the correct defence by our East-West pair, it's necessary to endplay West to make the contract. Across the field, almost every North-South pair bid 4♥, but while several declarers received a helpful club lead, 7 went down. 📈