

Tollemache 2009

The following 5 pairs represented Devon at the 2009 Tollemache qualifier at Hinckley : A. Bridgman / T. Glenday; C. Ritzen / R.Carter; G. and N. White; W. and A. Hamilton; J. Pellow / T.Treeby.

In a group of 10 counties they won one match (against 3rd-placed Sussex) and drew one (against Wiltshire). An 8-12 loss to eventual qualifiers Bedford was down to the realities on two pairs getting a board wrong at cross-imp scoring. The 7-13 loss to Somerset was down to odd scraps rather than any major disasters. They finished 10th in the group, 4 VPs behind Dorset. PS 2 counties in other groups had lower scores.

All the pairs had their triumphs and mishaps and it would be unfair to identify any individual errors. I think it a fair judgement to say that losses were caused by errors rather than enemy action. Full match recors, travellers, Butler scores session by session etc are on the EBU website HYPERLINK "http://www.ebu.co.uk" www.ebu.co.uk.

I hope to eventually report on some of the boards (the first few are below) but the following was a genuine triumph by Willie Hamilton as declarer.

x. Session 3 board 26 :: You are in the East seat and hear the following bidding (1) splinter with singleton or void club; (2) explained as first round control.

Both Vul	Dealer East	South	West	North
	1D	P	1H	P
	4C (1)	P	4D (2)	P
	4S (2)	P	5H	P
	6H	P	P	P

Partner (North) leads AC for J * (whatever shows diamonds or count according to your system) and 7.

He switches to a trump because of the anticipated cross-ruff and trumps are drawn with A and K. Declarer leads 2D from dummy, you duck because you think declarer wants to set up KD for a spade discard. You have just let 6H through because the cue-bid void turns out to be the singleton QD!

You (South)			East (dummy)	
S	10 9 7 2		S	A K 5
H	10 2		H	A K 8 4
D	A J 5		D	K 10 8 3 2
C	Q 10 6 3		C	J

Terence Treeby
30 November 2009

Hands that generated swings at cross-imped teams

1. Session 1 board 3 :: N-S need to bid; they end up with a plus scoring against zero

Dealer S		S	K 8 3		
EW Vul		H	A 5 4		
		D	J 10 2		
		C	Q 9 6 4		
S	6 5 4 2			S	J 10 9 7
H	10 6			H	Q 9 8 7
D	K Q 5 4			D	A 9 7 3
C	A 7 3			C	K
		S	A Q		
		H	K J 3 2		
		D	8 6		
		C	J 10 8 5 2		

2. Session 1 board 4 :: Pard's 2S shows 5+ - 5+ in the red suits up to about 12 points. Do you bid 4H? If so a disciplined pard must not bid 5H when they bid 4S. More comments in footnotes

North	Both Vul	Dealer West	North	East	South
S	Q 10 7 3	P	P	1S (five)	2S*
H	K J 5	3S	Your bid		
D	J 5 2				

C	Q 10 2				
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3. Session 1 board 13 :: North is dealer and the bidding goes P – P – 1NT – x – 2H (spades) – P – 2S – 3H – P – 4H. You lead KS, partner takes AS and returns 9S. Your next card? Answer below

North			East (dummy)	
S	K Q J 10 5		S	6 4 2
H	10 7		H	9 4
D	J 8 2		D	K 7 4
C	5 4 3		C	K J 7 6 2

2. Session 1 board 4:: EW can make 9 tricks in spades if South avoids leading a low diamond from K 8 7 6 4 3 and leads either a trump or a club or AH from A Q x x x.

3. Session 1 board 13 Answer : it has to be a diamond for one off; any other card allows 4H to make.

Supplementary : Can partner with A 9 8 spades help by ducking two spades or do you just pick the weaker minor?