

## CAUTIOUS BIDDER [136]

The East Wales heat of the WBU Inter-club Teams of Eight saw seven teams compete at the Cardiff club on Sunday under Tony Howarth's direction. Penarth were the comfortable winners - many congratulations to them - with Cardiff 'Blue' and Barrivale in the other qualifying positions. I played for Cardiff 'Red' who secured a well deserved 4th place.

The following two boards, played against the winners, were but a small part of the story.

### Board 6, Session 2; East dealt; E/W vulnerable

	♠5432	
	♥J7532	
	♦J6	
	♣105	
♠AKQ1086		♠J97
♥6		♥8
♦108432		♦975
♣9		♣K76432
	♠void	
	♥AKQ1094	
	♦AKQ	
	♣AQJ8	

The South hand, held by my partner, is the stuff of dreams - certainly if playing rubber bridge - but it is not easy to do justice to such a monster. This was the sequence at the table where Sue and I sat North/South.

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
		P	2C
2S	X	P	3H
P	4H	P	6H
all pass			

Having given a little squeak at my first go, I didn't think I could do any more, and Sue for her part did not think she could underwrite thirteen tricks. I can't say I blame her.

John Salisbury sat South for Penarth, and when his partner likewise found a double over the spade overcall (Three Spades at that table), John found the imaginative shot of Four Spades. When his partner then bid her heart suit at the five level, John raised to Seven. He was slightly better off than Sue in that his partner had by this route indicated a preference for hearts, but the key lay in John's 4S effort. Full marks for imagination, and a deserved swing.

This hand arose two boards later, against the same opponents.

## Board 8; West dealt; all non-vulnerable

	♠void	
	♥K10983	
	♦Q98543	
	♣J7	
♠A4		♠KJ8765
♥AQ764		♥J
♦K10		♦AJ
♣K985		♣AQ42
	♠Q10932	
	♥52	
	♦762	
	♣1063	

At our table East/West bid reasonably enough to Four Spades. The club suit did not get a mention. As you can see, spades break badly, but that was but a minor inconvenience since declarer can afford three spade losers (which she duly lost), the rest of her hand being high.

I rashly contemplated the possibility of a flat board, but that was without making sufficient allowance for my team-mates' optimism when deeming themselves to be in the slam zone (a triumph of hope over experience, but where would any of us be without that?). I don't have the full sequence, but Chris and Simon *did* locate their club fit, along with the absence of any immediate losers, and duly wound their way to the club slam. Impossible to stay out of it, one might say.

Sadly, whilst the East/West hands don't have any immediate losers, the fact that spades broke 5-0, and so could not be established, meant that declarer was short of the necessary twelve winners. A 3-2 spade break would have presented no difficulty, and even 4-1 might have been managed with a bit of care (always assuming that the trumps broke, which they did), but the 5-0 spade break was too much.

They've been in worse, so considered themselves unlucky, which I suppose they were (a little).

GD