

BEST DEFENCE

This was awarded to John Armstrong and Graham Kirby for this neat effort:

Dealer South, East/West vulnerable

	A 7 6 4 3 2		S	W	N	E
	Q 6		Davies	Kirby	Smith	Armstrong
	4 2					
	A Q 8					
J 10 9 5		Q 8	Pass	Pass	1S	Pass
K 9 3 2		J 8 5 4	2D	Pass	2S	Pass
K 6 5		A Q 8	2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
9 6		J 5 3 2				

K
A 10 7
J 10 9 7 3
K 10 7 4

Graham Kirby led H2 to the HJ won by declarer with the ace. Pat Davies felt that, instead of just relying on the club guess, she should give herself the chance of

the spade break as well. She played SK then a club to the Q and a small spade to John Armstrong's Q. But now John siezed his chance - he played a club! This completely wrecks communications, whatever Pat decides to do. In practice she won the ace, cashed SA and guessed correctly to finesse in clubs, but now when she played a heart Graham Kirby was able to cash a second spade and three diamonds for one down. If the SA is not cashed it never makes, and any other play in clubs also leaves declarer a trick short.

The following hand was a close runner-up for best defence and deserves an 'honourable mention' for Forrester and Hoffman (who played together in the last match only):

Dealer North, Love all

	Q J 9 6		S	W	N	E
	A J 10 8		Wester-	Hoff-	Jansen	Forr-
	K Q J 9		hof	man		ester
	10					
A K 4 2		8 5	-	-	1D	Pass
K 5 2		6 4 3	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2C
A 10 7		8 5 3 2	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Redbl
8 5 4		A Q J 7	Pass	Pass	2D	Pass

10 7 3
Q 9 7
6 4
K 9 6 3 2

Tony Forrester led a sneaky CQ which held the first trick, then switched to S8. Hoffman won the SK and continued clubs. North had

little choice but to let this run and Tony won his CA. Now the defence played a second round of spades to the ace, spade ruff, diamond to the A and a fourth round of spades which Forrester was able to ruff with the D8. So far the defence had 7 tricks and East still had a D with which to exit so that declarer was endplayed to concede a heart. Three-off and 150 points was a fine score for East West!