

A Dying King



Love All. Dealer South.

♠ 8542	♠ none
♥ A832	♥ Q1076
♦ AQ9	♦ J8653
♣ A9	♣ Q765

♠ KQ1063	♠ AJ97
♥ J54	♥ K9
♦ 4	♦ K1072
♣ K432	♣ J108

West	North	East	South
<i>Teltscher</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>	<i>Lee</i>
2♣*	Pass	3♠	1NT
4♠	All Pass		Pass

*Authority forgets a dying king,
Laid widowed of the power in his eye*

wrote Tennyson. This is interpreted by many as meaning “new rules emerge” and South had to take this on board and realise that he had to sacrifice his king of hearts in order to beat the contract on the above hand. 2♣ was Landy and West was happy to accept the game try of 3♠ because of his good controls, despite his bad spades. South led the jack of clubs, which was won with the ace in dummy, and a spade to the queen revealed the bad news. South won that and played a second club, and East won, finessed the diamond, cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a heart, and then cashed the ace of hearts, on which Peter Lee had to unblock the king. This he did and declarer could no longer get home. Tony Forrester made the contract, when his opponent failed to unblock in a similar position, by exiting with a heart, ruffing the club return in dummy, ruffing a diamond, and playing the fourth club to endplay South.

The best defended hand therefore went to Peter Lee, a former British Chess Champion, and in chess the king can never be sacrificed!