



South African Trials

Bulletin: Number 3
Editor: Deirdre Ingersent

When I arrived at the Links at the end of Day 2, I was impressed with the smart layout of the 19 participants there positioned in 2 long rows, well-spaced and each row looking towards windows. There were laptop cases lying around, extension cords and coffee cups but the hall had a pleasant atmosphere about it and there had been no problems with connection at all. It was very quiet (as it should be of course!).

The bridge chatter was as one would expect - about particular hands. Everyone I spoke to was anxious that they would finish in the first eight places which will be known at the end of Tuesday's play when the Qualifying Rounds would be over. The last 3 pairs would sadly be eliminated. The importance of continuous concentration was stressed as the slightest mistake could cost valuableimps. Bev Hewitt explained to me just how important each board was and how on their penultimate board of the day just what most players would deem a small defensive error proved very expensive for them. Nicky Bateman, who is playing with Val Bloom in a new partnership brought about by an unusual set of circumstances, talked about their 4 pages of notes on their system which was a compromise one. Again, I heard misunderstandings are costly.

Tomorrow is another day I heard several times and I learned it is important not to dwell on mistakes but learn from them and fight on!

In conclusion, I would like to wish all the players Good Luck for the rest of the Qualifying rounds.



***Submitted by
Deirdre Ingersent***

Players at the Links Johannesburg



The players set up in their lines at The Links Bridge Club in Johannesburg.



Larry Chemaly, one of the Gauteng players, has a small dog accompanying him!



Cape Town Players

OPEN QUALIFIERS - Results by Round

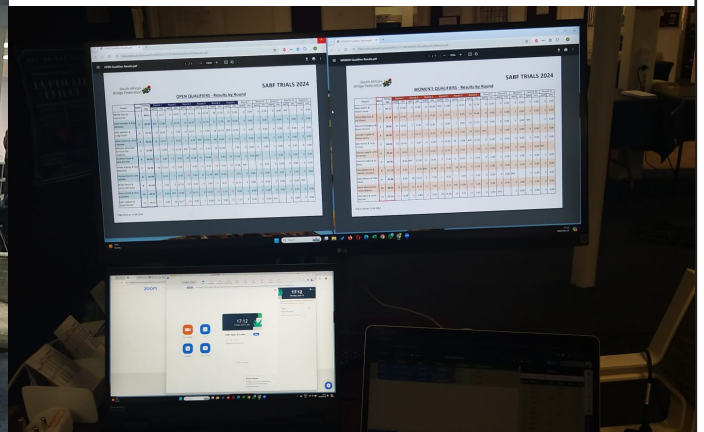
Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6		Round 7	
			IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Noah Apteker & Rob Stephens	1	104.42	BYE	12.00	6	12.01	24	16.37	5	11.70	21	15.79	81	20.00	25	16.55
Neville Eber & Hennie Fick	2	98.56	2	10.71	13	13.97	18	15.15	25	16.55	29	17.24	22	15.99	-3	8.95
Alon Apteker & Craig Gower	3	83.75	27	16.91	-6	7.99	12	13.71	-6	7.99	18	15.15	BYE	12.00	0	10.00
Duncan Keet & Jude Apteker	4	72.41	7	12.31	-5	8.30	-24	3.63	21	15.79	BYE	12.00	-22	4.01	24	16.37
Andrew Cruise & Saul Burman	5	71.00	-18	4.85	-19	4.63	20	15.58	15	14.46	-18	4.85	20	15.58	3	11.05
Michael Alexander & Anton Der Kinderen	6	70.75	-2	9.29	5	11.70	BYE	12.00	-15	5.54	20	15.58	-7	7.69	-3	8.95
Imtiaz Kaprey & Paul Reynolds	7	68.96	18	15.15	-13	6.03	-2	9.29	-21	4.21	-20	4.42	33	17.86	BYE	12.00
James Grant & Larry Chemaly	8	68.07	13	13.97	-5	8.30	-12	6.29	BYE	12.00	48	19.64	-20	4.42	-25	3.45
Kevin Smith & Chris Castelein	9	54.56	-13	6.03	BYE	12.00	2	10.71	6	12.01	-29	2.76	-81	0.00	3	11.05
Brian Pincus & Diniar Minwalla	10	53.78	-7	7.69	5	11.70	-20	4.42	-25	3.45	-21	4.21	7	12.31	0	10.00
Glen Holman & David Beinart	11	37.74	-27	3.09	19	15.37	-18	4.85	-5	8.30	-48	0.36	-33	2.14	-24	3.63

WOMEN QUALIFIERS - Results by Round

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6		Round 7	
			IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel	1	93.15	1	10.36	9	12.90	61	20.00	BYE	12.00	7	12.31	20	15.58	0	10.00
Nicola Bateman & Val Bloom	2	91.35	BYE	12.00	17	14.93	31	17.56	11	13.45	-3	8.95	15	14.46	0	10.00
Dianne Penlington & Glynis Dornon	3	82.97	11	13.45	-2	9.29	8	12.61	-3	8.95	-3	8.95	32	17.71	6	12.01
Jennifer Foaden & Renee Kenny	4	78.03	12	13.71	2	10.71	-11	6.55	21	15.79	-16	5.30	13	13.97	BYE	12.00
Sharon Lang & Lotte Sorensen	5	72.69	-13	6.03	-9	7.10	27	16.91	3	11.05	3	11.05	-9	7.10	11	13.45
Peta Balderson & Jennifer Gautschi	6	70.02	-11	6.55	-11	6.55	BYE	12.00	-20	4.42	16	14.70	9	12.90	9	12.90
Bev Hewitt & Trish Crosse	7	67.05	11	13.45	-17	5.07	-61	0.00	9	12.90	28	17.08	BYE	12.00	-11	6.55
Carol Grunder & Jill Rabie	8	65.88	-1	9.64	BYE	12.00	11	13.45	-9	7.10	3	11.05	-15	5.54	-9	7.10
Janne Masojada & Tanya Rawson	9	62.58	13	13.97	11	13.45	-31	2.44	-21	4.21	BYE	12.00	-32	2.29	14	14.22
Mary Mutch & Erica Zimet	10	55.14	-11	6.55	18	15.15	-8	7.39	-11	6.55	-7	7.69	-13	6.03	-14	5.78
Zela Stern & Carol Stanton	11	45.14	-12	6.29	-18	4.85	-27	3.09	20	15.58	-28	2.92	-20	4.42	-6	7.99



The results tables for each event are clearly set out at the front so participants can check how they are doing.



One of the younger, and second time S A trialist, Sharon Izerel clearly deep in concentration.


OPEN QUALIFIERS - Match Schedule

Start	Rnd	Tbl	North	South	East	West	
Tue 16-Apr 10:00	8	1	BYE		CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	
			2	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	HOLMAN, Glen	BEINART, David
			3	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude	SMITH, Kevin	CASTELEIN, Chris
			4	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
			5	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie
			5	ALEXANDER, Michael	DER KINDEREN, Anton	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
Tue 16-Apr 11:30	9	1	BYE		HOLMAN, Glen	BEINART, David	
			2	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie
			3	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig	ALEXANDER, Michael	DER KINDEREN, Anton
			4	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	SMITH, Kevin	CASTELEIN, Chris
			5	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar
			5	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude
Tue 16-Apr 14:30	10	1	BYE		EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie	
			2	SMITH, Kevin	CASTELEIN, Chris	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar
			3	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
			4	HOLMAN, Glen	BEINART, David	ALEXANDER, Michael	DER KINDEREN, Anton
			5	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
			5	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig
Tue 16-Apr 16:00	11	1	BYE		PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	
			2	ALEXANDER, Michael	DER KINDEREN, Anton	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
			3	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude
			4	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
			5	HOLMAN, Glen	BEINART, David	SMITH, Kevin	CASTELEIN, Chris
			5	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul

WOMEN'S QUALIFIERS - Match Schedule

Start	Rnd	Tbl	North	South	East	West	
Tue 16-Apr 10:00	8	1	BYE		STERN, Zela	STANTON, Carol	
			2	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	MUTCH, Mary	ZIMET, Erica
			3	MASOJADA, Janne	RAWSON, Tanya	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill
			4	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
			5	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis
			5	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
Tue 16-Apr 11:30	9	1	BYE		MUTCH, Mary	ZIMET, Erica	
			2	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis
			3	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer
			4	STERN, Zela	STANTON, Carol	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill
			5	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte
			5	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon	MASOJADA, Janne	RAWSON, Tanya
Tue 16-Apr 14:30	10	1	BYE		PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis	
			2	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte
			3	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
			4	MUTCH, Mary	ZIMET, Erica	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer
			5	STERN, Zela	STANTON, Carol	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
			5	MASOJADA, Janne	RAWSON, Tanya	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish
Tue 16-Apr 16:00	11	1	BYE		LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	
			2	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
			3	STERN, Zela	STANTON, Carol	MASOJADA, Janne	RAWSON, Tanya
			4	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
			5	MUTCH, Mary	ZIMET, Erica	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill
			5	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee

Who said Men are better players than Women?

		N cruisey ♠ J9874 ♥ A ♦ K542 ♣ 1074	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	1♥	P	1♠	P	2NT	P	3♣	P	3NT	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S																				
		P	1♥																				
P	1♠	P	2NT																				
P	3♣	P	3NT																				
P	P	P																					
W craigy52 ♠ A103 ♥ Q1064 ♦ 1093 ♣ Q65		E alonap ♠ 652 ♥ 952 ♦ AJ6 ♣ J932																					
	S KingZlot ♠ KQ ♥ KJ873 ♦ Q87 ♣ AK8		3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0																				

3NT was a popular contract in both the Open and the Women's events after South showed hearts and 18-19 balanced and North showed spades.

After the popular 10♦ lead, looking at all 4 hands it looks like South may make 4 spades, 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 2 Clubs = 9 tricks. But good defence can stop declarer from making 4 spade tricks with the simple play of ducking spades twice. Now South does not have the entries to run the suit. Of course, if defenders win the first spade, a switch to hearts will knock out the entry to spades prematurely. This defence was not found by those who won the first spade.

The only successful defenders to beat 3NT were Craig Gower, Trish Crosse, Glynis Dornon and Renee Kenny who all ducked the K♠ and Q♠. Three women and 1 open player managed this. The women did a lot better than the open.

Was there any danger in ducking 2 rounds of Spades? Not really when West holds the 10♠. Sometimes declarer may play the king or queen from hand not holding any supporting honours. Even in these cases it is essential to duck the first round of spades to prevent declarer from running the suit.

2 pairs in the open played in the inferior spade contract which needs the 10 of spades coming down or spades 3-3 and a 3-3 diamond break unless you can pick up Ace doubleton. Even though both spades and diamonds were coming in, only one declarer was successful.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 3 D </div>	N NoahApteke ♠ KQJ1063 ♥ 9 ♦ Q4 ♣ 9542	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">W</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">E</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♣	4♠	X	P	6♥	P	P	6♠	P	P	X	P
	W	N	E	S														
2♣	4♠	X	P															
6♥	P	P	6♠															
P	P	X	P															
W castelein ♠ ♥ AKQJ105 ♦ AK72 ♣ A76	S drowzee ♠ A8542 ♥ 8763 ♦ J10 ♣ 103	E kgsmith ♠ 97 ♥ 42 ♦ 98653 ♣ KQJ8																

6♠x N NS: 0 EW: 0

One of the weaknesses of standard methods is the 2♣-opening showing an undisclosed game forcing hand. When you open this, it almost acts as a red flag to a bull for opponents to take action and get into the auction. The 2♣ opener is particularly vulnerable to pre-emption when opponents are not vulnerable. On this hand Noah Apteker took full advantage of the vulnerability and made a full blooded pre-empt to 4♠ (you can't keep these juniors down!). West was undaunted and punted 6♥ when East showed some values. Robert Stephens, looking at no defensive tricks, had no problem taking the profitable 6♠ sacrifice which went 4 down costing 800. This was worth 12 imps when all the other E/W were left to play in 6♥ for +1470.

Interestingly in the Women's, all the North pairs only managed to scrape up a 2♠ bid over 2♣. In the open, one other player (Glen Holman) in the open bid 3♠. Bidding at least 3♠ (6-4 bid more) looks clear to me and I would make that bid even if vulnerable. The internal solidity of the suit, good shape, vulnerability and the fact that opponents have not described their hands at all, makes this a winning bid. Similarly, if opponents open a strong 1♣ with the West hand, I would recommend bidding 3♠ with the North hand to disrupt their auction.

D 4	N goldbar	W	N	E	S
	♠ Q65 ♥ 9832 ♦ J942 ♣ 86	1♠ P 2♠ P 3♠ P 4♥ P 5♥ P	P P P P P	2♣ P 2NT P 4♦ P 4NT P 6♠ P	P P P P P
W KingZlot		E cruisey			
♠ KJ9842 ♥ K105 ♦ Q3 ♣ A5		♠ A3 ♥ A764 ♦ AK8 ♣ KQ32			
	S larryc777				
	♠ 107 ♥ QJ ♦ 10765 ♣ J10974				
		6♠ W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

This was a relatively easy 6♠ or 6NT slam to bid. Saul Berman (West) and Andrew Cruise (East) conducted the above good auction to get there playing a 2 over 1 auction. The key bids were East's 2NT which is forcing and Saul's 3♠ bid that confirmed a 6-card suit.

Continuing our theme of Open versus Women players, all the women pairs managed to get to this slam. In the open, 1 pair stopped in 4NT and another got overboard and played in 7♠ going 1 down.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 10px;">8</div> </div>	N Dunx ♠ K2 ♥ A1097 ♦ Q1085 ♣ K95	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1NT	P	2♥	X	P	3♥	3♠	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S														
1NT	P	2♥	X															
P	3♥	3♠	P															
P	P																	
W Hcbfick ♠ 54 ♥ K42 ♦ AKJ32 ♣ A74	S judeap ♠ AQ ♥ QJ865 ♦ 74 ♣ Q832	E eebs ♠ J1098763 ♥ 3 ♦ 96 ♣ J106																

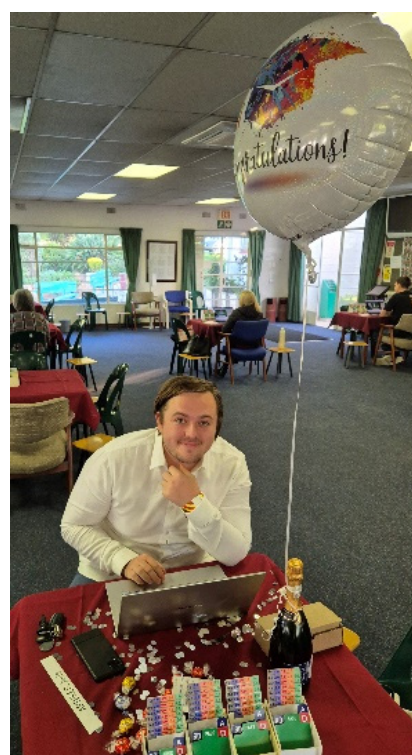
3♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Jude Apteker (South) defended this hand well. He led the Q♥ and continued the suit. East played a trump and he was now at a cross-road. Looking at those menacing diamonds in dummy, he may have made an aggressive switch to clubs which would have allowed 3♠ to make. Instead, he continued with a passive defence of continuing hearts and was rewarded when declarer now lost 2♠, 1♥ and 2♣. This was worth 2 imps to the good guys. (Allowing 3♠ to make would have led to a loss of 3-4 imps).

In the open, 2 pairs made at least 9 tricks in Spades and 2 pairs made fewer than 8 tricks. One North/South pair was allowed to play in 3♥ which made easily. In the Women's, all 5 pairs made at least 9 tricks in Spades.

At last, a hand where the open pairs did better than the women's pairs!

Jude Apteker organised his bye for the morning so he could attend his BA graduation ceremony today. Note champagne, special balloon and chocolates on his table!



<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> D 4 </div>	N goldbar ♠ 1075 ♥ K108 ♦ QJ9432 ♣ 5	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">2♣</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">P</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">4♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">5♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">6♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	2♣	X	P	P	3♠	P	4♦	P	4NT	P	5♦	P	5NT	P	6♠	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																						
P	P	2♣	X																							
P	P	3♠	P																							
4♦	P	4NT	P																							
5♦	P	5NT	P																							
6♠	P	P	P																							
W drowzee ♠ 84 ♥ QJ654 ♦ K7 ♣ 9763	E NoahApteke ♠ AKQ9632 ♥ A9 ♦ A10 ♣ AK																									
	S larryc777 ♠ J ♥ 732 ♦ 865 ♣ QJ10842	6♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0																								

The East hand is one of the strongest I have seen. It will usually take 11 tricks without any help from partner. The auction above was scientific and identified a gap in the heart suit and Noah settled for 6♠. With the heart finesse on, declarer could easily make 13 tricks.

Interestingly, in the Open, 3 of the 5 pairs bid 7♠ requiring a winning finesse (a 50% grand slam). In the Women's, all pairs only bid to 6♠ or 6NT. A 50% grand slam is frowned upon, as when it makes, you gain 13 imps when vulnerable but when it goes down, you lose 17 imps. In addition, there is always some chance that one or 2 pairs will not bid the slam at all.

Again, the Women come out tops.

What's your verdict? Who plays better – open or women?

<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 2 D </div>		N Dunx ♠ 104 ♥ K107 ♦ AQ875 ♣ K42	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">W</th> <th style="width: 25%;">N</th> <th style="width: 25%;">E</th> <th style="width: 25%;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">2♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	P	1♥	P	2♥	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S																
		P	P																
1♥	P	2♥	P																
P	P																		
W fatcat4399 ♠ 86 ♥ AJ853 ♦ K2 ♣ A853		E glensa ♠ A972 ♥ 642 ♦ 1093 ♣ Q96																	
	S judeap ♠ KQJ53 ♥ Q9 ♦ J64 ♣ J107		2♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0																

David Beinart (West) played this part-score well to make 8 tricks in 2♥. North led the 10♠ and David made the first good move by ducking. He won the second spade and played a heart the jack. North switched to a low club ducked in dummy and won with the Ace. A second round of trumps followed and then a club which North won with King.

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-right: 5px;">2</div> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0 5px;">D</div> </div>		N Dunx ♠ 104 ♥ K107 ♦ AQ875 ♣ K42	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">W</th> <th style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">E</th> <th style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">1♥</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">P</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">P</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">P</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">P</td> <td style="background-color: #fff9c4;">2♥</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♥	P	P	P	P	P	2♥	P
W	N	E	S												
1♥	P	P	P												
P	P	2♥	P												
W fatcat4399 ♠ 86 ♥ AJ853 ♦ K2 ♣ A853	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">♣4</div>	E glensa ♠ A972 ♥ 642 ♦ 1093 ♣ Q96													
	S judeap ♠ KQJ53 ♥ Q9 ♦ J64 ♣ J107	2♥ W NS: 3 EW: 3													

In this position North now erred by not cashing the 10♥. David took full advantage of this and exited a heart on winning the Q♣. North was now endplayed into leading a diamond giving declarer his 8th trick. David judged well that the A♦ was likely to be with North once South failed to bid over 2♥ holding KQJXX of spades. This was worth 4.75 imps.

We are coming to the end of the qualifying rounds with only 4 more matches to play. Everyone still has something to play for. Those at the top need to consolidate their good scores to ensure a good carryover and those lower down will be fighting for 8th qualifying position. Good luck to all.

Bernard Donde