

Hands from Bath Bridge Club – 6th August 2015

End plays of various types are amongst the most interesting situations in card play technique. Here are four examples from an ordinary club duplicate yesterday.

Dlr W	J	
EW Vul	A Q 10 5	
	J 8	
	A Q 9 7 3 2	
3 2		K Q 10 7
9 8 7 3		J 4
A 9 7 5 4		K Q 6 2
J 10		6 5 4
	A 9 8 6 5 4	
	K 6 2	
	10 3	
	K 8	

Taf opened 1♣ second in hand and rebid 2♣ over my 1♠ response. I was reluctant to leave it here at pairs so I rebid 2♠ and this finished the bidding. The opening lead was the 8♥. I won the Ace (deceptively dropping the 6 from hand) and led the J♠ from dummy. My plan was to lose this to West, win the next heart, cash the A♠ and then play 3 rounds of clubs. This plan went wrong when East covered the J with the Q♠. I was obliged to win and play 3 rounds of clubs now hoping that West would have to ruff with a trump trick. This play also went wrong because West ruffed low and played Ace and another diamond. I ruffed and tried the 9♠ and was dismayed when West showed out. This was the position now:

	none	
	Q 10 5	
	none	
	7 3	
none		K 7
9 7 3		J
9 7		Q 6
none		none
	8 6 5	
	K 2	
	none	
	none	

East was on lead and it seemed as if the defence must make two trump tricks. However East made the mistake of forcing me with a diamond. I ruffed and crossed to dummy with the Q♥. Now I led a winning club and East was fixed. A diamond discard just delayed the agony – I discarded the K♥ and the lead was in dummy at trick 12 so I had to score a trick with my 8♠.

87% (even with 11 tricks being available in a club contract)

A few hands later, this hand came up.

Dir W	A 9 8 7 6 2		
Both Vul	3		
	10 6		
	A 9 6 4		
K J 3		5 4	
J 9 5 4		K Q 10 6 2	
Q 4 3		J 5	
Q 10 3		K J 5 2	
	Q 10		
	A 8 7		
	A K 9 8 7 2		
	8 7		

Taf opened 2♦ (Multi) and I responded 2NT (relay). Taf bid 3♦ showing a maximum weak 2 in Spades. Although I had only 13 HCP, they were all fully working for a spade contract so I bid 4♠. West led the 3♣ which was not so good for me.

I decided to win the A♣ and try a low spade to the 10♠ won by West's J♠. West continued with a second club taken by East won returned the J♦. Now, seeing all the cards, I could just run the Q♣ and make an easy 11 tricks but this put all my eggs in the basket of finding West with K♠. I decided instead to win both top diamonds and then ruff the third round with the 9♣ in dummy. If East overruffs with the King, I still have a good chance but in practice, East discarded a heart. This was the position at this stage:

	A 8 7 6		
	3		
	none		
	9 6		
K 3		4	
J 9 5 4		K Q 10 6	
none		none	
Q		J 5	
	Q		
	A 8 7		
	9 8 7		
	none		

I now played A♥ and ruffed a heart in dummy, then ruffed a club and ruffed another heart. In the three card ending, I exited with the last club and claimed the last two tricks with A8 of spades. 100% - but because no-one else was bidding game.

Here was an interesting position

Dir N	A	
Love All	A K Q 8	
	10 6	
	Q 9 8 7 3 2	
Q 10 7 5 2		9 8 4
9 7 6		5 3 2
A K Q J 3		7
none		A K J 6 5 4
	K J 6 3	
	J 10 4	
	9 8 5 4 2	
	10	

The bidding is best forgotten, but South ended up declarer in 3NT X. Taf was West and he cashed two diamonds, then switched to the 2♣. Declarer had little chance but decided to cash 4 rounds of hearts. Unsure of the position in diamonds and spades, I decided as East to keep all my clubs so that at trick 8 dummy had all 6 clubs and so did I.

Dummy exited with the 2♣ and I won with the J♣. This was the position (declarer and West's hand were irrelevant at this stage):

Q 9 8 7 3
A K 6 5 4

I exited with the 6♣. Dummy won with the 7♣ and tried the 9♣. I won with the K♣ and when I exited with the 5♣ the two card ending with dummy to play was:

Q 3	K 4
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Last two tricks to the defence for +300 and 87%

Now, what would have happened if South had passed 3♣X and I had led my partner's suit (a spade)? Carnage? Nope – unexpectedly, North would have made the contract by careful play! Win the A♣ and play a low heart to the J♥. Cash the K♣ and ruff a spade. Now cash two more top hearts and lead a 4th heart from dummy. Whatever East does at this stage declarer cannot be prevented from scoring 3 trump tricks and landing the contract!

Taf had a complex endplay on this hand (assisted by a forgivable misdefence)

Dir E	9 5 4		
Both Vul	9 8 7 6		
	7 3 2		
	K 8 6		
10 8 7 6 3		Q J 2	
10 5 2		K Q 4	
Q 10 9 5		K 6 2	
7		A J 9 5	
	A K		
	A J 3		
	A J 8		
	Q 10 4 3 2		

East opened 1♣ and, too strong to overcall 1NT, Taf doubled. I responded 1♥ and passed Taf's 2NT rebid. The opening lead was the 7♣ covered by the 8 and 9 and taken with South's 10♣. Taf returned a club to the K♣ and A♣, West discarding the 2♥, after which East switched to the 2♦. Taf unsuccessfully tried the J♦ and won the third round of the suit with the Ace. He then cleared the clubs – West discarding a low spade – and took East's Q♠ with the Ace.

This was the position:

	9 5		
	9 8 7		
	none		
	none		
10 8		J 2	
10 5		K Q 4	
10		none	
none		none	
	K		
	A J 3		
	none		
	4		

Now, on the last club, West made the mistake of discarding another heart. Dummy discards a spade and East is in trouble. If the 4♥ is discarded, declarer can just play Ace and another heart – so, East must discard a spade. Now Taf was able to cash the A♠ and lead the J♥. East wins with West's 10 dropping and is now endplayed to lead away from his other heart honour. 75% scored.

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