

29- 2023 – Another Con Job

This Hand came up last week, and the Club's serial con artist was at it again:

Dealer S, NS Non Vul, EW Vul

Q
Q98653
Q95
A92

107542
J
KJ7
8754

J9863
A74
10642
10

AK
K102
A83
KQJ63

BIDDING

NS bid to 6C, without any interference, with South as Declarer

THE PLAY

West led HJ and Declarer smelt a singleton lead (in fact, it reeked to high heaven). The end was nigh. East would take HA, and return a Heart to be ruffed by West. 1 down (and 6H would have made!)

Declarer hoped - maybe West has HA, and underled it.....?

He played HQ from Dummy, East played HA (there went the hope of the underlead)

Then a Eureka moment – throw the HK from Hand! [The Con Job fomented....]

He tossed it nonchalantly onto the table, under HA. [The Con Job is laid....]

Poor East. He thought - South's HK is obviously a singleton - no-one in their right mind would drop it under HA. West must have H2 more Hearts, so playing another Heart is pointless, maybe even damaging as it would allow South to discard a loser from Hand as HQ wins the trick

East agonised for a bit, then led what he thought was the Defence's best hope - D2, hoping Declarer would finesse DK if he did not have it. [The Con Job succeeds.....]

Declarer played DA, drew Trumps in 4 rounds ending in Hand, played H10 (East giving a befuddled look as West showed out). Then to rub it in, H2 over to Dummy to run 2 more Hearts to take care of the losing Diamonds in South's Hand. 6C made

South remained tight lipped, as any good Con Man does. West had smoke coming out his ears

'My lead was obviously a *%!\$#^ singleton Heart', West exhorted. Poor East

A Con Job immaculate by Declarer!

MORAL OF THE STORY

As said last week, in life you should be a decent citizen, upright and caring

But in Bridge? The Con Job has many faces! It lurks in every corner.... be wary. Another to come next week

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

22 Sept 2023

POSTSCRIPT

West challenged East to a duel, to resolve their differences as true gentlemen should do, in the Club carpark. The Director hyperventilated as he spent some time consulting the Bridge Rule Book, looking for Duel protocols, of which the most recent mention was in 1746 in England when one poor Defender managed to trump 3 of Partner's winners with his A, K and Q of Trumps, allowing a Doubled Contract to make, a record that still stands to this day

Fortunately, neither East nor West could shoot straight, and only a few car tyres were lost. The Club's brigade of grannies banded together and changed them all