

Nicely done, Liz

By Tom Townsend

Dealer South
Vulnerability All

♠ Q 8 2 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ 9 4 3 2 ♣ 9 4 2		♠ A K 9 ♥ A 6 4 2 ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ A J 8	♠ 10 6 5 4 ♥ K J 5 ♦ A J 7 ♣ K 7 3
♠ J 7 3 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ Q 10 6 5			

West	North	East	South
pass	1♥	pass	pass
pass	2NT	pass	1NT
pass	pass	pass	3NT

Contract 3NT by South
Opening Lead ♦ 4

THE England under-16 team is Harry Madden, Oscar Selby, Megan Jones, Henry Rose, Jasmine Bakhshi and Liz Gahan. In training for August's World Championships in Salsomaggiore, Italy, they tackled last weekend's Spring Fours congress, in Stratford-upon-Avon. As expected, the youngsters found the double-elimination Schapiro Trophy a struggle, and were eliminated after round two. They had more joy in the Punchbowl the next day, notching a famous 24-IMP victory over Paul Hackett.

On today's deal from the main event, Gahan made light work of a 3NT that was frequently bungled. A diamond was led to the ace, and the ♦J returned to the King. Declarer's remaining entry to hand (the ♦Q) was liable to be dislodged as soon as

she lost the lead. Unwilling to risk a club blockage by running the ♣10 at trick two, the 13-year-old finessed the ♣J instead, hoping for doubleton ♣K on her left.

East was *Telegraph* bridge news correspondent, Patrick Jourdain. Ducking the ♣J smoothly (without giving away the position) was worth a try, but Jourdain took the simple approach of winning the ♣K and clearing diamonds. This was the position after four tricks:

♠ Q 8 2 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ 9 ♣ 9 4		♠ A K 9 ♥ A 6 4 2 ♦ none ♣ A 8	♠ 10 6 5 4 ♥ K J 5 ♦ none ♣ 7 3
♠ J 7 3 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ none ♣ Q 10 6			

South had eight on top. Needing to develop one more trick in the majors, Gahan led the ♥10 from hand and ran it. The man from the DT won with the ♥K (rather than the ♥J) in a thoughtful attempt to enable his partner to get in on the third round of hearts and cash ♦9. This would have worked had West held the ♥8 instead of South.

Patrick shifted to the ♠4. Gahan misguessed by putting up ♠J, but still made her contract. She took ♠A and cashed her three club tricks, discarding the ♠9 from hand. Next came ♥9, passed to Jourdain's ♥J. The Warwickshire prospect had the last three tricks with the ♥A, ♠K, and established 13th heart.

Final Result 3NT made, N/S +600
Par Result same

