

# Bridge

## Janet de Botton

'Starry Starry Night' I found myself humming, even though it was lunchtime. The event was TGR's second Auction Pairs and the bridge stars came in droves from all over the world to take part in Marilyn Malinowska's state-of-the-art dream tournament.

Seventy-six boards were played over two days and the cast went from the sublime — Geir Helgemo and Peter Fredin — to the ridiculous — er ... me! The auction raised over £50,000 and was eventually won by Icelandic poppets Bjarni Einarsson and Adalsteinn Jorgensen in a very tight and brilliant finish. Here they are in a crucial deal:

Dealer North

E/W vulnerable

	♠ A 8 7 6										
	♥ A Q 8 2										
	♦ A										
	♣ J 5 3 2										
♠ 9 2	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 10 5 3
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 10 7 3	♥ 9 5										
♦ 9 8 7 5 2	♦ K 6 4 3										
♣ Q 7 4	♣ K 10 6										
	♠ K Q 4										
	♥ K J 6 4										
	♦ Q J 10										
	♣ A 9 8										

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥

West led the ♥3 against the tough slam, and declarer, Einarsson, took stock.

The contract has some very interesting possibilities: two diamond ruffs in dummy and no unreasonable breaks bring the total to 11 tricks. Spades could break 3-3, but there are also chances in the club suit, and if declarer can find a way to isolate the defensive club stop, there may be a squeeze in clubs and spades.

Einarsson's choice was to win the lead in dummy and immediately play a club to the six, nine and Queen. The next heart from West was won in dummy, and the ♦A unblocked. The ♣A and ♠K were used as entries to ruff diamonds, and when he finally came to hand with the ♠Q to take his remaining two trumps, East had to throw in the towel.

East could have saved the day by putting in the ♣10 at trick two, after which the defence can choose who will hold the clubs, but that was tricky to say the least. And as East was me, of course I didn't realise until the post mortem got under way!

Great event. Great result.