

# Bridge

## Janet de Botton

I am tragically aware of the desperate tedium of the Seventies feminist, banging on endlessly about perceived slights and injustices, sniffing out a sexist around every corner and generally living the life of a paranoid mega-bore. I am also tragically aware that I tick every box, so today I am going to bring you a different story.

The Portland Pairs is England's largest simultaneous Mixed Pairs' event, which takes place at different venues across the country and was won this year by Chris Duckworth and Brian Callaghan with a brilliant 63 per cent over two sessions. They played, as did I, at Young Chelsea and I was amazed (nay, humiliated) to find every pair getting on famously and only one person in the room blaming their partner for everything that went wrong . . . moi! Here is Mrs Duckworth at her best in slam:

Dealer West                      North/South vulnerable

♠ A10 8 5  
♥ AK 6 5  
♦ AK 9 8 3  
♣ void

♠ J 7  
♥ 7 3 2  
♦ J 4  
♣ AK J 9 5 2



♠ Q 2  
♥ Q J 10  
♦ Q10 5 2  
♣ Q10 6 3

♠ K 9 6 4 3  
♥ 9 8 4  
♦ 7 6  
♣ 8 7 4

**West                  North                  East                  South**

1♣	X	3♣	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	4♠

Very few pairs were in slam, but Chris's decision to jump to 4♠ after the second double was all the encouragement Brian needed. Twelve tricks was the norm, but Chris showed that you could take all thirteen with careful timing. The ♣A lead was ruffed in dummy and two rounds of trumps brought good news. A, K of Diamonds and a ruff brings us to the key stage: dummy should now be re-entered with a top Heart, not a club ruff. Chris found this line, and now another ruff established the long Diamond. A Heart to dummy, and now a *Heart*, not a Club, was discarded on the good Diamond. This meant declarer could go for the extra chance of hearts breaking 3-3, with the delayed club ruff as the last entry. Thirteen tricks were landed, and so was a well deserved top.

Er . . . did anyone else read that the Equal Opportunities Commission has a dual wage structure for men and women??