

**Matai Pairs****Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Board 7

	104	
	K64	
	J109872	
	Q2	
A976		KQ83
J82		1093
AQ		64
A983		KJ64
	J52	
	AQ75	
	K53	
	1075	

Dealer South Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
3S	Pass	4S	All pass

With 15 points West ,if playing 12-14 NT, opens 1C the lower of two 4 card suits. East responds 1S.

Note that with 9 points a 1NT response shows 6-9 points but more importantly denies a 4 card suit biddable at the 1 level.Thus, East MUST bid 1S and MUST NOT bid 1NT which denies 4 diamonds or 4 hearts or 4 spades.

With a spade fit and above minimum point count West invites to game and East with 3 more than originally promised accepts the invitation.

South starts with the unorthodox but effective 5H .North wins and returns to the QH. A diamond switch is won by dummy and 3 rounds of trumps draws all the opponents spades.

Declarer must now pick up the clubs without loss and there a number of alternative plays.However South has shown QH and JS and by implication KD and AH ( North would surely cash AH at trick 2 if they held it) which totals 10 points. If South held the QC their points would come to at least 12 and therefore likely to open the bidding. Since South passed at the beginning of the auction it makes very heavy odds to place the missing Q with North and declarer can play to the AC and finesse against North with confidence to make the game.

Supposing that South did indeed open the bidding marking them with the QC.Now the best chance ( discounting the long odds of finding Q10 doubleton) is to hope for split honours and take the less familiar 'backward' finesse. East leads JC forcing the QC from South ( otherwise declarer would run it ) and win in dummy with the A.Now declarer should lead 9C from dummy and if the 10 does not appear then run it finessing against North.