South lead the ♦6 - diabolical! I naturally ducked, hoping to get a ruff in hand. After the ♦J won, the tournament hospitality committee chair made a nasty switch to the ♣J. I might have survived by covering the first round, but I tried the second. South drew the third round of trump and played the ♦K. I can still come home by finessing in hearts, but a successful club hook would take the rest of the tricks. That's what I did, down 1.

In hindsight, it might have been correct to finesse in hearts (not just because we can see it in the North hand). On a more normal lead of the ♦K, I would have time to get a ruff in hand - unless South cleared trumps, which would also cost a trick. So a winning club finesse cannot produce a good board - compared to other 2♣ contracts. So the apparently inferior heart finesse, or playing for the drop in clubs (unblocking the ♣J), is indicated.

On the other hand, many Norths would open 2♥. That's what happened when I asked the GIB program to bid the hand. The final contract then would probably be 2NT (overcall) or 3♠ (via transfer), or 3NT (GIB's bidding is not so hot). So our result may have been OK.

- Pete Matthews