

Javea Bridge

Friday October 27th 2017

Some hands are just guess work in the bidding, some in the play. This one was a total lottery.

Tues 10 Oct	North Bd27 Dealer S,Both Non-Vul. ♠ 5 ♥ QJ2 ♦ QJ2 ♣ KQ7652	East ♠ KJT973 ♥ K943 ♦ K5 ♣ 9
West ♠ Q64 ♥ T86 ♦ AT643 ♣ JT	South ♠ A82 ♥ A75 ♦ 987 ♣ A843	

At our table South opened 1NT (10-12) and I found it difficult to believe that the 3NT was actually a viable contract – after all it requires partner to have 3 Aces and for the red suit finesse to work.

We do have a 2S bid available as a transfer to clubs which partner can break with a suitable fit – I decided that to use the call would only encourage EW to find a spade fit so I elected to pass. Now East could bid 2C showing both majors or 2D to show just one major – which would you choose.

John chose my preferred bid of 2D and heard the nearly automatic 2H from W. The difficulties of the hand continue here. I came to life with 2N – a transfer to Clubs and East tried 3S. See what I mean about a lottery – no-one knows what is going on

Over 3S I tried 4C confident(ish) that I would double 4S if it were bid (it wasn't) and that won(?) the auction. My partner says she would have bid 5C over 4S and prevented the double – I am not sure I believe her, surely she was just trying a wind-up.

The contracts played were 4C +1, 5C,-1, 3C= and 4S=.

The play was just as difficult when it came to guessing how to defend. The heart lead did not turn out well. North won and drew trumps and played a diamond towards the honours. What would you do as West?

At our table he hopped up with the ace to switch to spades. If you are confident East has shown 6spades you will know that a switch to spades cannot help as North is now marked with a singleton – while a heart switch might (and would, in practice) be helpful. You have to guess well. There may be no need to hurry so you could consider ducking. Winning and switching to spades was a potential disaster as South can win, ruff a spade, play a club to the eight, ruff another spade and exit with a diamond. The heart loser now disappears but 11 tricks scores the same as 10 so the lottery continues to the end.

PRH