

# Javea Bridge

Friday December 1st 2017

Two hands today – one to illustrate the importance of a thoughtful defence and one to show how lucky one can be.

Tues 14 Nov		North Bd 24 Deal W,NoneVul.	
		♠ AK53	
		♥ T73	
		♦ Q65	
		♣ 873	
West		East	
♠ 952		♠ QJT7	
♥ 852		♥ AQ6	
♦ 3		♦ AKJT2	
♣ QJT962		♣ K	
	South		
	♠ 84		
	♥ KJ94		
	♦ 9874		
	♣ A54		

We defended 1D and Anita led the Spade 8 which looked like a doubleton. Unthinkingly I cashed the top two spades and gave partner a ruff – I had no clear signal to give or wish to give and now Anita had to guess what to play next – and anything is fatal. She tried a trump which killed my holding and we later made 2 hearts (could have been 1 club and 1 heart but no more are possible.)

We would have done much better if I had led a heart at trick 2. The Ten is probably the best card in these circumstances. Now East has a major problem – to cover with the Queen allows South to win and continue spades and to have a safe exit in hearts after the spade ruff. NS will make 2 spades, 2 hearts, a ruff, a club and a trump for one off.

If East goes up with the Ace and plays trumps he will make the contract but only just. After A and K of trumps and another North can lead a heart and give up the spade ruff or a spades for the ruff and South is endplayed having to give either a club or a heart..

The next hand has several points of interest.

Wed. Nov 15		North Bd 2 Deal E,NSVul.	
		♠ AJ7	
		♥ KT3	
		♦ 85	
		♣ AJT52	
West		East	
♠ Q83		♠ K652	
♥ QJ54		♥ 962	
♦ 7		♦ KQT6	
♣ K9876		♣ Q3	
	South		
	♠ T94		
	♥ A87		
	♦ AJ9432		
	♣ 4		

The North hand meets the requirements for a 4<sup>th</sup> in hand 1NT (12 points + 3 spades >14) so I bid 1NT.

Fraser found the excellent responses of 2C intending to pass whatever I said. If we play in a 4-3 major fit we should get some ruffs in the short trump hand.

As it was we played in a 6-2 fit on the lead of a spade. I won and led the diamond 8 which was not covered, I think correctly. My aim was to pick up the trumps for one loser whenever East held Ten,small and either honour. I had given no consideration to the 4-1 split until the 8 won.

Now another trump forced Lynn to correctly play the Queen and that was won by the Ace.

A spade was given up to the King, and two clubs were ruffed on table, and two hearts and a spade cashed. Now a Heart was lost and dummy made one more trump trick at tricks 12 and 13.

We played this in the second round and were surprised this was a flat board – Nacho made 10 tricks in diamonds after the lead of the heart Queen. Could he have made 11!?

PRH