

Javea Bridge

Friday December 8th 2017

Two hands today – to complement last week. The first to show that last week’s comment on defence had some effect and the second to mirror last week’s surprising trump situation.

Fri 17 Nov West ♠ 8 ♥ KQ976 ♦ K642 ♣ KJ6	North Bd 16 Deal W,EWVul. ♠ KT6 ♥ J8432 ♦ A ♣ QT87	East ♠ Q543 ♥ - ♦ J9873 ♣ A954	South ♠ AJ972 ♥ AT5 ♦ QT5 ♣ 32
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West played in 1NT and my Club lead was quickly seen to be useless. Declarer won with the Nine and led the Diamond Seven to the Ten, King and my Ace.

Clearly a spade switch is called for and the only question is which one. The “normal” Six leads to the suit being blocked unless South has seen the hand before and plays the Nine. The King is disastrous if West has a singleton Ace so the odds suggest leading the Ten.

Partner will not misunderstand the unconventional lead and will be pleased when the 10 wins and is followed by the King and another to wrap up 5 spade tricks and two off.

The point of the next hand is the trump position which arose towards the end of the contract.

The bidding was energetic and East led a spade against North’s contract of 4H.

The early play was confused by both sides but after seven tricks we reached the critical moment.

Wed 29 Nov West ♠ QJ96543 ♥ 2 ♦ KT5 ♣ K9	North Bd7 Deal S All Vul ♠ A ♥ K653 ♦ A8 ♣ QJ6542	East ♠ 82 ♥ AJ87 ♦ 943 ♣ AT83	South ♠ KT7 ♥ QT94 ♦ QJ762 ♣ 7
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At that stage the position was (after losing 2 tricks)

West ♠ Q9654 ♥ ♦ T ♣	North ♠ ♥ 653 ♦ ♣ QJ6	East ♠ ♥ J87 ♦ 9 ♣ T8	South ♠ T ♥ QT ♦ 762 ♣
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With the lead in the North hand. I led a trump and, on the grounds that the contract was there if the trumps were 3-2 and that I could not afford to lose to the Jack, I played the Queen. When West showed out I assumed I was doomed – BUT- a diamond ruff established winners in both hands and the play of clubs left East without resource and just one trump trick.

PRH