

Javea Bridge

Friday December 15th 2017

The two hands this week are all about bidding – or, perhaps, the lack of bidding.

Wed 29 Nov	North	Bd 16	Deal W,EW	Vul.
	♠ T743			
	♥ 2			
	♦ 743			
	♣ K7542			
West		East		
♠ QJ8		♠ 65		
♥ QT984		♥ AK76		
♦ J92		♦ KT865		
♣ 93		♣ JT		
	South			
	♠ AK92			
	♥ J53			
	♦ AQ			
	♣ AQ86			

Perhaps we were lucky that East chose not to open the East hand with 1D and so we had an easy run when South opened 2N and the five clubs in the North hand led to an assumption we should look for game and Puppet Stayman led to a contract of 4S making an easy 11 tricks. At first we were surprised that other were not in this excellent contract but when we looked at what might happen after 1D by East it suddenly seems an impossible contract to find.

After double, intending a 2N rebid, the bidding goes haywire. West may well bid 1H and, unless North can find 2C NS are doomed. If North passes East will bid 2H and South's plan has gone wrong.

After another double North will bid a black suit but it will not be clear to south that game is a good bet.

The real point of the hand is that East should always open this hand – never mind the “rule” that you need 12 points. With a five card suit many would open this hand in any position.

In 3rd position opening is a must.

Tues 5 Dec	North	Bd 2	Deal E	NS	Vul
	♠ T9653				
	♥ KQT				
	♦ Q863				
	♣ 5				
West		East			
♠ KQJ		♠ A			
♥ A9742		♥ J85			
♦ 2		♦ AK97			
♣ QT94		♣ AK762			
	South				
	♠ 8742				
	♥ 63				
	♦ JT54				
	♣ J83				

Congratulations to Peter Eastwood and Karl-Heinz Rathgeber who were the only pair to finish in the “right” contract of 6C.

We started with 1C – 1H – 2D – 3N. Now 4N suggested a slam and, with points known to be below 33 we dived straight to 6C – the West hand is surely worth a couple of extra diamond ruffs which should make a slam in Clubs a much better bet than 6N. Unfortunately 6C was converted to 6N which stood no chance until North helpfully discarded a heart.

As a rule I believe it is sensible not to play 6N with less than 33 points unless there is a good long suit – it is better to play for safety by playing in a suit contract if extra tricks are available.

I was amused to note that Fraser and Mike also found the club fit but elected for 6N.

Those who show 19 points by opening 2C and rebidding 2N are likely to miss the club fit and play in a very inferior 6H.

PRH