

Happened at the Table

August 10, 2008

I watched a table last week. Here are just a few of the things that happened that we can learn from:

1. Trapped

The hand

South	North
S: 5 3	S: A Q 7 6
H: 7	H: A T 4
D: J 4	D: Q 7 6 5
C: K Q J T 5 4 3 2	C: 7

The bidding

E	S	W	N
2H	?		

You are south. What do you do? _____

*When I watched, the bid was 3C followed by 3H and a double by partner.
My suggestion: Either pass or bid 5C immediately.*

2. Misleading

Your hand:

S: 10 9 8 7

The hand is already in play. You attain the lead and decide to lead a spade. Which spade? _____

Answer: the 10, of course. When I watched this hand being played, the defender led the 8! I don't know why.

3. Bidding problem

South	North
S: K 10 9 7 6	S: A 5 2
H: K Q 8 3	H: A 7 2
D: 8	D: A 7 5 2
C: J 10 5	C: A Q 7

The bidding

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1S	P
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

Better bidding

N	E	S	W
<i>1D</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>1S</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>2NT</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>3H</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>3S</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>4S</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>		

The lead was the king of diamonds. Down 2. There are probably at least 3 better ways to bid this hand.

Suggestion: above, but there are others, of course.

4. Unusual bidding

South	North
S: K Q 6 4	S: J 7 2
H: VOID	H: 10 9 7
D: K Q J 10	D: A 8 3
C: A 10 9 7 3	C: K 6 5 4

The bidding

S	W	N	E
1C	P	1N	P
?			

What do you bid now? _____

Answer: If you open it 1C, you have to bid 2C. A better idea would be to open in 1D so that you can have a rebid of 2C. When I watched this, South rebid 2NT! An unfortunate choice.

5. Playing decision

Contract: 4S

South is declarer. North is dummy. Small heart is led. What do you play from dummy? _____

	N		
	K 8 4 2		
W		E	
H: 10 6 5		A Q J 7 3	
	S		
	H: 9		

Answer: Play low. East is in with the Jack but can't continue the suit because it sets up the King. When I watched this being played, South played the K, giving E an easy defense. Second hand low is almost always correct.

6. Partner opens in third seat.

The bidding

North (you):	N	E	S	W
S: K 10 6 4	P	P	1H	P
H: J 10 9 2	?			
D: 8				
C: A K 8 3				

What do you bid? _____

Answer: If you are not playing Drury, bid 3H. I know your partner opened in 3rd seat, but your hand revalues to an opening hand, so you need to let your partner know. If you play Drury, bid 2C. If you bid 2-way Drury, bid 2D. When I watched this hand, North bid 2H!

7. They might not make it.

The bidding

North (you)	W	N	S	E
S: A 9 4 3	1S	P	1N	P
H: 5 2	4S	?		
D: 10 7 6				
C: A K Q 5				

What do you bid? _____

Answer: Pass. How many tricks do you think you will take? You hope 4, but with this bidding W shows a very unbalanced hand with very long spades. Do you actually think diamonds will go around 3 times? Do you actually think you will get a heart ruff? Assume your opponents have some sense. When I watched this being bid, N doubled. They made 4S, of course.

8. I like my partner's suit

The bidding

East (you)	N	E	S	W
S: K Q 8 7	1C	X	P	1S
H: A 9 7 4	2C	?		
D: K Q 2				
C: 7 2				

What do you bid? _____

Answer: Pass. Your partner heard your double. If he wants to bid 2S, he will. If you double and then bid, you are showing 17+ hcp, and you are inviting your partner to game if he bid his 1S on close to 8 points. His 1S showed 0-8 hcp. When I watched this, E bid 2S. Then S bid 3C, and when it came around to E again, she bid 3S!! My goodness she loved that hand. It was not doubled, but West did go down 3, for more points than they could ever make in playing clubs.