

Bath Replays

6 When not to bid (1)

Board 6. 16 November 2006

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>West</u></p> <p>♠ K75 ♥ K952 ♦ A9 ♣ A985</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>East</u></p> <p>♠ A9432 ♥ A104 ♦ K1083 ♣ 3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>North</u></p> <p>♠ J10 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ7643 ♣ KJ102</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>South</u></p> <p>♠ Q86 ♥ QJ876 ♦ 5 ♣ Q764</p>

Dealer: East
East-West vulnerable

<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	
—	1♠	Pass	2♣	
2♦!	Pass	Pass	Double *	* better than minimum hand
Pass	Pass	2♥!!	Double	
3♦!!!	Double	All pass		

Final contract: 3♦ doubled by North.

A quick review of the auction:

East's spade opener is a bit thin, but his shape is quite good. West's 2♣ is the correct bid as 2♥ promises five. Let's have a look at our first contestant, North. The vulnerability may well be favourable to NS, but the diamond suit is poor, and she doesn't really have the values either. Her clubs are sat over West's, which will be good for the defence. The position at the table is quite exposed, in that there is an opening bid on her left and a constructive response to the opening bid on her right.

Anyway, East and South pass, and West reopens with a double. This promises extra values. North and East both pass and the spotlight turns to our next contestant, South. In situations such as these it's generally better to pass and hope for the best, but South decides to rescue to hearts, which West doubles for penalty. Lots of huffing and puffing and uncontrolled body movements from North elicits 3♦, which is doubled for penalties by East.

And the play?

The demolition of 3♦ began when East started with his singleton club. West won and returned the ♣9 (suit preference for a spade). East ruffed and led a low spade to the king. Another club - the 8 - was returned (asking for a heart) and East ruffed again. The dismantling of North's assets continued with a small heart to the king, which was followed by another club ruff. East then cashed the A♠ and led another spade. At this point all North had was trumps, and so had to ruff the winner. With the ♦A and ♦K to come that was 5 off: 1 club, 3 club ruffs, 2 diamonds, 2 spades and a heart. Minus 1100 for NS, against minus 620 for East making 4 spades.

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