



# Bath Replays

## 8 When not to bid (3)

Board 13. 20th March 2007.

Dealer: North  
All vulnerable

North  
 ♠ 10532  
 ♥ K85  
 ♦ A954  
 ♣ 104

West  
 ♠ A87  
 ♥ J104  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ QJ653

East  
 ♠ Q64  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ QJ1076  
 ♣ AK2

This hand comes from Tuesday 20th March  
- board 13!

<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♥	3♣	3♥!!	Double
All pass			

South  
 ♠ KJ9  
 ♥ AQ963  
 ♦ 82  
 ♣ 987

Final contract: 3♥ doubled by South.

Let's have a look at the bidding. North's pass is, well, ... a pass. East starts the ball rolling with a diamond. Many will open a weak NT, but we could not because we play I4-I6 at the vulnerability. South's heart overcall is sound enough: a decent 5-card suit, if minimum values. West's 2♣ is natural and forcing to either suit agreement or 2NT, whichever comes first. (This is much better than having 2♣ as non-forcing as you'll have to double on too many unsuitable hands, and you are much more likely to be bounced in the auction.) North's 2♥ is fine, as is East's 3♣; South's 3 hearts, on the other hand, is not. Where are the extra values, the sixth trump? And South's hand is balanced. In the event, West doubled on the combined defensive values.

And the play:

West started with the ♦K to the ace, 7 and 2. Declarer drew trumps, ending in dummy. (If South tries to ruff a club in dummy, things can go horribly wrong). Next came a spade to the 4, 9, and ace. West continued with a diamond: South ruffed the third round, and was stuck in hand with only one trump left, and unable to reach dummy to lead a spade. The horrible realisation dawned that 800 was on the cards (pun intended!) if he exited with a club, so he gave up a spade to go 2 off. Declarer made 5 hearts, a diamond and a spade. At the end, he somewhat wistfully announced that: 'I had a reasonable five-card suit partner'. Yes ... we know, you've already shown that by your 1♥ overcall.

What are the points to glean from this hand, and others in the series?

- 1 When you have a minimum overcall and partner only makes a simple raise, it's best to pass rather than risk a large penalty, especially at equal vulnerability.
- 2 If you have something in reserve, then you can involve partner by doubling to show a better hand or bidding a new suit. YOU DO NOT BID THE SAME VALUES TWICE.

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