



Bath Replays

19 Bid up, play up

Board 17. Thursday 19 April, 2007.

This hand was played in April of this year. North was the dealer, and neither side was vulnerable.

♠ J
♥ 65
♦ J1073
♣ KJ10943
♠ A109862
♥ KQ874
♦ Q
♣ 5
♠ Q53
♥ J
♦ AK542
♣ AQ76
♠ K74
♥ A10932
♦ 986
♣ 82

The auction was as follows:

<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠	
Pass	2♥*	Pass	4♣	
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♠	All pass

* Shows a good spade raise: should really have 4 spades.

East's diamond opener is fairly standard, though South's heart overcall is a bit thin. West's spade is natural and forcing, and only promises four spades. We have reached the important bid in the auction: East's 2♥ cue bid. This really should promise four spades, though it's generally best to get across your support for partner at the earliest opportunity. The next two bids show slam intentions, with 6♠ closing proceedings.

North started with a heart to the Ace, and South continued the suit. West won with the King. As you can see, 6♠ is an awful contract, but we have to make the best of a bad lot.

West cashed the diamond Queen, and crossed to dummy with the A♣. For the contract to make, the diamond honours must stand up, and must be taken whilst still in dummy. When this passed off successfully, attention turned to the spade suit.

There are only two distributions that matter: a singleton King onside, and King to three onside. All 2-2 breaks and stiff King offside mean that there is a spade loser; as does King to four in either hand. Anyway, West ran the spade Queen to pin the Jack and rack up the contract.

Points of interest:

- If the cards have to lie in a certain way to make your contract, you must assume that that distribution exists.
- Sometimes you have to stretch and slightly distort your hand to best describe it.

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