

# Bath Replays

**25 Extra bids & Reevaluation** Board 26. Tuesday 6 May, 2008.

I was sitting West when this deal occurred. Both sides were vulnerable, and my partner opened the bidding:

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

\* = fourth suit forcing with at least values for 2NT, a 'please describe your hand further partner' bid.

♠ J97			
♥ AK972			
♦ 965			
♣ Q2			
♠ AK752	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">NORTH</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">WEST</span> 26 Dealer <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SOUTH</span>	♠ Q63	
♥ 1054		♥ 3	
♦ K7		♦ QJ1084	
♣ J103		♣ AK65	
♠ 84			
♥ QJ86			
♦ A32			
♣ 9874			

On the face of it, this was a fairly standard auction and probably a common one. But being EW we missed a cold spade game.

So who should we point the blaming finger at?

Well, on reflection, me. As well as a lot of other Wests, I suspect.

It's interesting to note that this board was played the full 13 rounds, and yet less than half bid to game. EW held 23 combined HCPs, a 5-3 major fit, and an outside singleton in a suit with no wasted values opposite. Surely more of us should have found game - especially since it was Butler scoring and we were vulnerable.

As for our auction, the significant bid was East's 2♠ following North's double of 2♥. The double makes extra bids available to East (Pass, Redouble and Cue bid), but to my shame, at the table, I didn't factor these into the reevaluation of my hand.

So what of those extra bids?

- *Pass* could have said 'I've described my hand fully and have nothing more to say; up to you now partner.'
- 2♠ could have said 'I'm better than minimum with a likely 3-1-5-4 shape, or maybe 3-0-5-5 or 3-0-6-4.'
- 3♠ could have said 'I'm similar to the above 2♠ bid but this time with extra values.'

As for the Redouble and the 3♥ Cue bid, I'll leave these out, as they are likely to vary in meaning according to your own partnership agreements.

Without North's double, East would probably have to bid 3♠, as he's a little too good for 2♠, and we would not have missed our game. As it was, my partner's accurate bidding was this time let down by my failure to recognise the fact.

After all, partner has opened, his points are in the same suits as mine and it looks as if we've only one heart to lose. What more could I wish for?

### *Summary*

Partner's failure to pass is just as important in hand evaluation as his action of bidding positively.

*Simon Hill*

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