



Bath Replays

32 Making the unmakeable

Board 23. Wednesday 26 November 2008

There are three lessons to be learned from this hand

1. Bid correctly
2. Defend sensibly
3. If neither of these happen, you still have a chance of making 3NT with 19 points.

South was the dealer, all vulnerable. The auction went as follows:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ (!)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣ (!!)
Pass	3NT	All pass	

North	South
♠ A1095	♠ J76
♥ KQ872	♥ J105
♦ A72	♦ KQ105
♣ 9	♣ KJ7
♠ KQ43	♠ 82
♥ A43	♥ 96
♦ J98	♦ 643
♣ 1052	♣ AQ8643

East's lead was ♠K, which Declarer ducked. At this point Declarer could only see 4 clear winners, one in each suit, and was thinking that five down vulnerable would be the cost of the mistakes in the auction. East continued with ♠Q, which was also ducked. Declarer cheered up a little at this point, as a further spade lead would reduce the tricks deficit to four. East duly continued with ♠3, dummy discarded a diamond, and West's Jack was overtaken taken by Declarer's Ace.

The lead being with Declarer, it now seemed reasonable to finesse the Q♣, so North led the singleton 9. West won with the King ... and returned a *low* heart. Declarer played low, and the trick was won by East's ♥A. Things were now looking a bit better - and if the hearts happened to be 3-3, better still.

East now switched to the ♦8, and Declarer overtook West's Queen with his Ace. He then cashed his master ♠10, discarding dummy's remaining diamond. His next lead was ♥K followed by ♥Q, which confirmed that the defenders' hearts were indeed 3-3, and leaving the position shown in the diagram.

North	South
♠ -	♠ -
♥ 87	♥ -
♦ 72	♦ J9
♣ -	♣ 105
♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ Q10	♦ -
♣ J7	♣ 105
♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -
♣ A864	♣ -

Declarer now cashed his two winning hearts. Not knowing that he had no way of getting out to the dummy, both defenders took it upon themselves to guard the clubs. Hence by trick 12, North's ♦7 and ♦2 were good, and an unmakeable 3NT was made.

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Note

South's proper response is a textbook example of the 'dustbin' INT. Most other Souths in the room appear to have got it right, as the most common contracts were INT by South (going one or two off, presumably after a diamond lead) and 2H by North (making).

The opening tricks, appropriately enough, constitute a 'Bath coup'. CJ