



2 An opportunity to shine *Phil Green*

Have you ever wondered why top players make more tricks than ordinary mortals? Can they see through the backs of the cards, do they have a sixth sense or do they sneak a look at their opponents' hands? The real reason is because they can count and they remember the bidding whilst they are playing the hand.

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

This is an example from a recent match where both declarers missed the opportunity to shine. North wanted to bid on the first round but had nothing suitable to say. Despite North's hesitation whilst reaching that conclusion, South can still bid 2♥. *

♠ KQJ3
♥ Q432
♦ J4
♣ KJ5

HEBON
Dealer
EAST
SOUTH

♠ 72
♥ AJ9765
♦ KQ7
♣ 82



West led ♣7 because (as you'll see) all the other options were worse, East took the Ace and returned ♠8 to the Ace and a second spade. Without looking at the full deal, how would you play the Heart suit?



It is obvious to lead the Queen, which both declarers did, but when East played ♥8 we played small and went one down. The expert, and the non-expert with the benefit of hindsight, would have got this right.



One of the points we stress to students when defending is to count partner's points as soon as you see dummy. This is a case where as declarer you must count the defenders' points. West has shown a minimum of 12ish by opening the bidding and East has a maximum of 5 as he passed the 1♠ opener by his partner. However, he showed 4 points on the first trick, so he cannot have ♥K (with it he would have had a simple response of INT). Knowing that West has ♥K South should play ♥A and hope that West's marked King is a singleton. His skill is rewarded with 12imp.

♠ KQJ3
♥ Q432
♦ J4
♣ KJ5

♠ A10965
♥ K
♦ A1053
♣ Q107

HEBON
Dealer
EAST
SOUTH

♠ 84
♥ 108
♦ 9862
♣ A9643

♠ 72
♥ AJ9765
♦ KQ7
♣ 82

Phil Green
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* The Law on Unauthorised Information, e.g. after a hesitation, says you may not choose between logical alternatives one which may have been suggested by the Unauthorised Information. Here the bid is clear cut, but removing ♥J and adding a small club would give the Tournament Director more work to do. Replacing ♦Q with a small one as well would prevent South from bidding.