

Hand of the Month No 2 A winning hand at teams

A Contribution by Pete S:

Dir: North
Vul: None

♠ A Q
♥ K J 6 5
♦ A 8 4 2
♣ A J 3

♠ 8 3
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ 9 7 4

W NORTH E
S SOUTH S
T T

♠ J 9 5 4
♥ 7
♦ K 9 7 6 5
♣ K 6 5

♠ K 10 7 6 2
♥ A Q 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 2
♣ Q 10 8 2

We were playing a Division 1 Match against a team just promoted from Division 2. Greg opened 1S in 1st seat. Looking at my hand with 19 High card points (HCP)

My hand was

- ♠ AQ
- ♥ KJ65
- ♦ A842
- ♣ AJ3

I know we need to be in at least a game contract, probably, a small slam (12 tricks) or possibly a grand slam contract. At this stage I don't know what denomination (suit or NT) it will be. What I need to find out from Greg is what his rebid is. The Opener's rebid after a suit opening is the most important information on which to gauge what the final contract is likely to be.

To find out, I bid 2D; it is not necessary to jump to show a big hand, in fact it makes things more difficult for the opener as it takes up valuable bidding space. I really want to be in charge of deciding where we end up as it's easier for me to

find out than Greg, and Greg replies 2H.

The bidding so far 1S : 2D (showing at least 10HCP, and not 4 card Spade support) 2H

This I am very pleased to hear as it now looks that we are going to end up in a H contract, and the prospects of Slam have increased markedly. I still don't know however what Greg's full hand shape is. I now bid 3C which in our system asks the opener to tell me more about what his hand contains; in itself it does not promise any holding in Clubs, so must be alerted. We play it as a game force bid, ie we cannot stop bidding until after a game contract has been reached.

Thinking about what his reply would mean to me, I considered

3D would show at least 3d suit and by implication a shortage in Clubs

3H would show a 5 card suit, and by implication he may have longer spades and at most 3 minor suit cards.

3S would show no stop in C for NT contract, and not 3 card d suit.

3NT would show a Club stop and not 5 Hearts.

Greg bid 3NT.

Decision time for me. Choices – 4NT asking for Controls is not possible as in our system it is a range probe and can be passed. Also I believe we should be playing in a 4-4 major suit fit (H) but Greg doesn't and although we have a way after a suit has been agreed to find out whether the responder holds the Q of trumps, I cannot use it. So I thought the options were 5H or 6H , expecting Greg to raise 5H to 6H if he had anything extra in his hand. In the end it was close my eyes time and bid 6H, which was passed out. So the whole bidding sequence, with no opposition input was as follows:

1S	2D
2H	3C alerted
3NT	6H

The QD was led and I put my hand down, and Greg stared at the table for a few

minutes. This would likely have a critical impact on the outcome of the match.

Teams - Contract 6♠. Q♦ Lead

Dummy ♠ AQ
 ♥ KJ65
 ♣ A842
 ♦ AJ3

Declarer ♣ KT762
 ♦ AQ42
 ♥ -
 ♠ QT82

Top tricks – 3♣, 4♦, 1♠, 1♣

What do you play at trick 1?

Losers from dummy's point of view - 3♣, 1♠

Losers from declarer's hand 2♣, 1♠

Do you decide to win the A♣, draw a number of trumps set up setup spades and finesse the club? or is there a another way?

I decided to give up on the ♣ finesse, ruff 2♣ s draw trumps, and play the winning black cards in Dummy. With dummy on lead

Dummy ♣ J3 ♣ A8

Declarer ♣ K ♣ QT8

Play 3♣ from dummy, K♣ goes up contract made.

The opponents who were in the same contract played A♣ at trick 1 and went off due to the club finesse being wrong, ♣ breaking 4-1 and ♠ 4-2. As a result we won the match narrowly.