

13/04/2020 Hand of the Week 09: The Big BBO Bash!

As the club is currently closed some of us have been experimenting with online bridge. The EBU are running daily tournaments with Bridge Base Online and on Saturday 4th April the club had 4 pairs in the main event. Here an interesting hand from that night where all 4 pairs ended up in a different contract! Playing with Martin I picked up this hand:



The general rule with very distributional hands is that you open your longest suit, then rebid your second suit which shows a 5-4 distribution. Bidding the first suit a second time would then show 6-4, and bidding the second suit a second time would show 6-5.

For example, bidding clubs then spades shows 5 clubs and 4 spades

The continuation are clubs/spades/clubs shows 6 clubs and 4 spades

Whereas clubs/spades/spades shows 6 clubs and 5 spades

But what about 7-5! Well these don't come up very often!

I opened 1♣, Martin responded 1♦ and I rebid 1♠. Although the hand has very few losers, you should not count fit points and so on until you have an agreed fit, so I did not feel I was strong enough to reverse. Martin then jumped to 3NT.

My understanding is that he probably has around 13-15 points, with likely 5 diamonds, a heart stop, and less than 4 spades. I now had a couple of options and in retrospect chose the wrong one! I could leave 3NT but I am quite weak on points and with a major lead we could well go off. The second option would be to bid 4♠, showing a 5-6 shape and giving Martin a choice of games contracts. I think this is the best bid. In fact, I chose the third option which was 5♣. This is bad for a number of reasons, but the main one in pairs is that 4♠ scores better than 5♣, so even if we make the game in clubs it may not be a very good score. This was the full deal:

8	N med029	W N E S	P 1♣ P 1♦
W kvb	S M27Evans	E rakeshs	P 1♣ P 3NT
♠ A9732	♠ QJ4	♠ K8	P 5♣ P 6♣
♥ Q	♥ AJ82	♥ Q7643	P P P
♦ A1098765	♦ AK108	♦ J432	♣ Q2
♣ A1098765	♣ J4	♣ Q2	6♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0

One of the advantages of BBO is that as well as the final contract, you can also review the bidding, shown in the top right corner. As you can see Martin thought I was showing a strong club suit, probably 6 or 7 headed by AK, and with his strength in the other suits and my previous spade bid chose to bid the slam. There is actually an outside chance of it making, but it relies on a 2-2 club split, the spade finesse to work and the 10♠ to drop doubleton, so not very good odds! We ended up one off for 13%. On reflection there is not really any need for Martin to jump to 3NT, I think a rebid of 2♥ is preferable. This gives me time to show my shape properly and then we should more easily find the correct game contract.

So how did the others get on?! Here are the other 3 Halifax pairs:

8	N mcdoodle	W N E S	P 1♣ 1♥ 2♦
W Amethysta	S HXGB3	E sherlock70	P 2♥ 2♠ P 3NT
♠ A9732	♠ QJ4	♠ K8	P 4♣ P 4♣
♥ Q	♥ AJ82	♥ Q7643	P P P
♦ A1098765	♦ AK108	♦ J432	♣ Q2
♣ A1098765	♣ J4	♣ Q2	4♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0

8	N dave470003	W N E S	P 3♣ P 3NT
W HXPauSim	S fpldn	E HXS Cord	P 4♣ P 5♣
♠ A9732	♠ QJ4	♠ K8	P P P
♥ Q	♥ AJ82	♥ Q7643	♣ Q2
♦ A1098765	♦ AK108	♦ J432	♣ Q2
♣ A1098765	♣ J4	♣ Q2	5♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0

8	N tillers	W N E S	P 1♣ 1♥ 3NT
W AZao	S ottewep	E Davidj010	P P P
♠ A9732	♠ QJ4	♠ K8	♣ Q2
♥ Q	♥ AJ82	♥ Q7643	♣ Q2
♦ A1098765	♦ AK108	♦ J432	♣ Q2
♣ A1098765	♣ J4	♣ Q2	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

Playing N/S Alan and Gay got some interference but still managed to find the preferred game of 4♠. Making 11 tricks this scores 71%. Well played!

Paul and Stephen were playing E/W. Interestingly South opened a pre-emptive 3♣. This bid takes up too much space for my liking, and I would not pre-empt with a 4+ card major. They ended up in 5♣, scoring 34%.

Finally Alice and David played E/W. There was interference but South bid straight 3NT over David's overcall. Making 10 tricks this scores 50%.

If you are interested in playing online bridge, have a look at the Bridge Base Online website or contact myself or Stephen.