

30/04/2020 Hand of the Week 12A: International teams

A special edition of hand of the week to commemorate the club's first international match. We have been in touch with the Kyle of Lochalsh bridge club in Scotland. They are a small club in West of Scotland and challenged us to see who could be the first to get a 100 followers on Twitter. If you want to help them their Twitter name is @ClubKyleof

As they are comfortably beating us at Twitter (60 followers vs 26 at the time of going to press) we challenged them to bridge match instead, teams of 8 played over 16 boards.



Martin and myself played with David and Alice in one team, with Andrew, David, Stephen and Gay in the other. The outcome of the first 8 board match was decided on this board:

<div>D4</div>		<div>N M27Evans</div> <div>♠K10832</div> <div>♥Q10</div> <div>♦A86</div> <div>♣AJ9</div>		<div>☰</div>	
<div>W mairisine</div> <div>♠J</div> <div>♥A75432</div> <div>♦J97</div> <div>♣KQ6</div>		<div>W N E S</div> <div>1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 3♠</div> <div>4♥ 4♠ Pass Pass</div> <div>Pass</div>		<div>E Connie1111</div> <div>♠A96</div> <div>♥J6</div> <div>♦KQ1043</div> <div>♣1074</div>	
		<div>S med029</div> <div>♠Q754</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦52</div> <div>♣8532</div>		<div>4♠ North</div> <div>00</div>	

<div>D</div> <div>4</div>		<div>N</div> botaniser		<div></div> <div></div>	
		♠K10832			
		♥Q10			
		♦A86			
		♣AJ9			
<div>W</div> AZao		<div>2</div>		<div>E</div> Davidj010	
♠J		1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 2♠		♠A96	
♥A75432		3♦ Pass Pass 3♠		♥J6	
♦J97		Pass Pass Dbl Pass		♦KQ1043	
♣KQ6		Pass Pass		♣1074	
		<div>S</div> gtterr			
		♠Q754			
		♥K98			
		♦52			
		♣8532			
				<div>3♠x North</div>	
				<div>0</div> <div>0</div>	

When responding to overcalls by partner myself and Martin use 'bid to the fit'. You add the number of cards in the suit up and bid to that level. So assuming Martin had 5 spades, I add my 4 to get 9 and bid to that level. This can be helpful for pre-emptive bidding. With strong hands I would cue bid as discussed in a previous article. West bids a hopeful 4♥, and Martin decided to 'sacrifice' in 4♠ which goes one off. As it is West heart suit is a little weak and 4♥ would also go one off. Unfortunately at

the other table the bidding was more competitive and NS ended up in 3♠ doubled which makes for a swing of 13 IMP. We lost the first session 11-24.

The second 8 board was very closely fought. We got off to a bad start on this board:

D 1	N botaniser ♠K65 ♥5 ♦KQJ97543 ♣6	
W med029 ♠3 ♥K109874 ♦2 ♣98753	W N E S 3♦ Pass 3NT 4♥ 5♦ Dbl Pass Pass Pass	E M27Evans ♠AJ84 ♥Q6 ♦A106 ♣J1042
	S gterr ♠Q10972 ♥AJ32 ♦8 ♣AKQ	5♦x North 0 0

The pre-emptive 3♦ lead to an entertaining sequence which saw North end up in 5♦ doubled. Martin's double is reasonable holding 2 Aces after my bid over 3NT, but with the very distributional hands it makes, opposite an undoubled 5♦ at the other table. We would have been better leaving 3NT, as Martin's holding in spades can prevent declarer getting to table to run the diamonds.

We were 2 IMP behind going into the last board:

D 8	N botaniser ♠J7 ♥AJ3 ♦KQ952 ♣862	
W med029 ♠8543 ♥Q72 ♦A87 ♣A53	W N E S Pass Pass 1NT Pass Pass Pass	E M27Evans ♠AQ109 ♥K6 ♦J103 ♣J1094
	S gterr ♠K62 ♥109854 ♦64 ♣KQ7	1NT East 0 0

D 8	N Davidj010 2+ ♠J7 ♥AJ3 ♦KQ952 ♣862	
W mairisine ♠8543 ♥Q72 ♦A87 ♣A53	W N E S Pass Pass 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass Pass Pass	E Connie1111 ♠AQ109 ♥K6 ♦J103 ♣J1094
	S AZao 2 ♠K62 ♥109854 ♦64 ♣KQ7	3♠ East 0 0

Interestingly both North's chose to pass. I think I might have been tempted 1♦! This meant the decision making fell onto East. Martin opened a slightly light 1NT. He does have good strength in the intermediate cards (9's and 10's) and it is a good pre-empt against South so I think is a reasonable bid. 1NT goes 1 off. As the other table East opens 1♠. I think this bid is harder to defend, although again it pre-empts South, and you would expect to pass any of partners responses. Unfortunately, West has good support and raised to 3♠ which goes 2 off, and gave us the points we needed to draw 12-12.

So overall Kyle of Lochalsh won our match 23-36. Our bacon was saved by our partners who cruised to a 55-11 victory so overall Halifax took the honours. KOL kindly sent us a signed picture of a local

bridge to commemorate the event! Please look them up if you are ever in the area and follow them on Twitter- their 99th follower will get a pack of cards featuring highland cows!



We are looking into other options for matches against teams in West Yorkshire and further afield so keep an eye on e-mail and the website for details!