

28/09/2020 Hand of the Week 32: Pass or bid?

E	med029
♠	A
♥	J
♦	AJ109643
♣	A1032

After my 1♦ open, LHO overcalls 2♣ and partner doubles. What next?

Partners double shows the majors and 8+ points. Although we might have game going points, there is no obvious fit and with a single club stop 3NT could be in trouble

What are the options?

3♦ This would be a reasonable description of the shape and strength of the hand- partner might choose to bid 3NT themselves with a club stop- however, from their point of view holding Qxx might not be enough.

3♣ This would be a cue bid, asking partner to describe their hand. This helps a little- they would have a similar choice as after 3♦, but could also bid 3♦ with a 2-3 card suit or show a longer major if they have one, so would potentially allow them to describe their hand better

2NT Tells partner you have a strong hand and club stop. You are hoping partner has some holding in diamonds

3NT As above, well if 2NT is going to make, 3NT probably is as well!

Pass You have 3 Aces and singletons in partners suits so good ruffing potential as long as you can find an entry

So what's your choice?

	N Widgetland ♠ K832 ♥ 109854 ♦ Q852 ♣	W N E S X P P P	
	W m27evans ♠ QJ74 ♥ K7632 ♦ K7 ♣ 95	E med029 ♠ A ♥ J ♦ AJ109643 ♣ A1032	
	S Tiku 12 ♠ 10965 ♥ AQ ♦ ♣ KQJ8764	2♣x S NS: 0 EW: 0	

Bad luck if you chose to pass like I did!

Partner leads K♦ which gets ruffed. Declarer switches to a Club, I took A♣, cashed my A♠ and switched to the J♥. Declarer wins the A♥, takes 2 rounds of clubs leaving this position:

	N Widgetland ♠ K83 ♥ 109 ♦ Q8 ♣	W N E S X P P P	
	W m27evans ♠ QJ7 ♥ K63 ♦ 7 ♣	E med029 ♠ ♥ ♦ A109643 ♣ 10	
	S Tiku 12 ♠ 1096 ♥ Q ♦ ♣ 876	2♣x S NS: 4 EW: 2	

Declarer knows I started win a singleton Spade, so can lead the 10, covering if West goes up with an honour. I will be ruffing with a winning club and will then be end played in diamonds. The A♦ will be ruffed establishing the Q♦, or a low diamond will be allowed to run. Declarer loses 2 clubs, a heart and 2 spades for +180, scoring 19%.

How you get on?

3♦ = scores 43%, and the risky 3NT score 87%