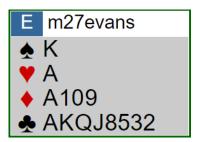
05/10/2020 Hand of the Week 34: Freak hands!

Here are a couple of hands that Martin sent me from an EBU event. Firstly:



How to open this hand?

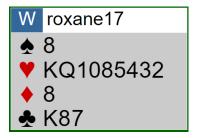
- 1. One option of to start 1 with a view to rebidding 3, however, I think this hand is too strong
- 3NT- The Gambling 3NT is for when yo have a long running minor without outside winner, so, again, I think this hand is too strong for that
- 2♣- You have 10 tricks off the top so I think this is the best option. You are looking to get to either 3NT or 6♣
- 4♣/5♣- I think the hand is too strong for any pre-emptive bid as it will mean you never find the slam if there is one

After the 2♣ open, partner shows a negative response with 2♠. What are the options now? With the negative response you can probably forget about a slam, so you are looking to get to either 3NT or 5♣. 3NT score better but look a bit risky with the singleton K♠. South is unlikely to lead the unsupported A♠, if North has it then South has might have an option of leading either major- and if you get a heart lead things look fine. If you do get a spade lead you would still be Ok if partner holds 109xx in the suit.

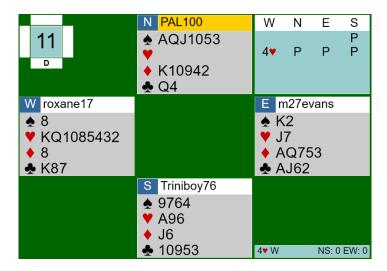


NS could take 5 spade tricks off the top but as discussed you are not likely to get the spade lead 5C scored 69% for EW, 3NT scored 92% and made 6 times out of 8.

On the next hand Martin's partner was dealt this:



I think the decision here is much more straightforward. You don't have any values outside of the hearts so it is a straightforward pre empt. 4 v should be sufficient!



The question now is whether North should bid 4♠- What would you do?

Just under half of North overcalled.

4♥ scores 76% for EW, 4♠ actually goes off, but scores 20% for EW, so well done if you chose to overcall!