

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:

E	m27evans
♠	K
♥	A
♦	A109
♣	AKQJ8532

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.

<div>10</div>		N Tivvad	W N E S			
		♠ QJ976	2♣ P			
		♥ 1054	2♦ P	4NT P	P	
		♦ KJ842	5♣ P	P	P	
		♣				
W roxane17			E m27evans			
♠ 10532			♠ K			
♥ Q873			♥ A			
♦ Q53			♦ A109			
♣ 96			♣ AKQJ8532			
		S leydrive78				
		♠ A84				
		♥ KJ962				
		♦ 76				
		♣ 1074				
			5♣ E NS: 0 EW: 0			

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:

W	roxane17
♠	8
♥	KQ1085432
♦	8
♣	K87

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♥ should be sufficient!

11 D	N PAL100	W	N	E	S
	♠ AQJ1053 ♥ K10942 ♦ Q4 ♣	4♥	P	P	P
W roxane17		E m27evans			
♠ 8 ♥ KQ1085432 ♦ 8 ♣ K87		♠ K2 ♥ J7 ♦ AQ753 ♣ AJ62			
	S Triniboy76				
	♠ 9764 ♥ A96 ♦ J6 ♣ 10953				
		4♥ W		NS: 0	EW: 0

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!