

to show the 5 card suit and West converts to 3NT. Other Easts bid 3♣ after partners 2♣, which should be taken as game going and gives partner the option to bid 3NT.

Ten pairs ended up in 3NT, but the card play is tricky and EW scored anything from +1 to -3. NS can establish heart tricks on the lead, but will then get squeezed when the clubs are played out, and will either have to throw winning hearts or lose their entry, so the contract should make.

Board 15 had a wide variety of results:

15 D	N Paula79	W	N	E	S
	♠ 654 ♥ KQ32 ♦ 842 ♣ J42	P	3♥	X	1♥
W med029		3♣	P	P	P
♠ K32 ♥ 987 ♦ AJ7 ♣ 8763	E Barns Lee				
	♠ J1097 ♥ A ♦ Q1063 ♣ AK105				
	S 79paul79				
	♠ AQ8 ♥ J10654 ♦ K95 ♣ Q9				
		3♣ W	NS: 0 EW: 0		

At our table, South opened a 5 card major and North made a 'system bid' weak jump to 3♥. My partner doubled and I was obliged to take out, choosing spades, as I didn't fancy going to the 4 level with such a poor club suit.

Following a heart lead, I lead J♠ from table which was ducked, then a second spade to the A♠. South doesn't really have any options at this point, if they continue hearts I can get 2 ruffs. A spade lead would reveal the 3-3 split allowing me to establish clubs. A club switch establishes the suit. As it happened South lead a small diamond which was ducked to table, I could then safely take a 3rd rounds of spades and use the club entries to finesse the diamonds again and drop the suit. Everything is in the right place and all the suits split allowing me to make 11 tricks for 200, and 70% for EW.

Playing ACOL some South's opened 1NT, I think this is the bid I would make as the heart suit does not look good for a rebid- this gets passed out in most cases. The robots scored well on this board as they find the optimum defence- after a heart lead East switches to J♠. This establishes 3 spade tricks. NS can take their hearts but lose everything else for -2.

At other tables, after an ACOL 1♥ open, North bids 2♥ and after Easts doubles, West then takes out to 3♣ in most cases. This also makes +2 but only scores 150.

Five NS pairs competed to 3♥ and got left in- declarer then finds that all the finesses fail and can only make 7 tricks.

Our next international is Monday November 9th and is a rematch against Halifax Nova Scotia.