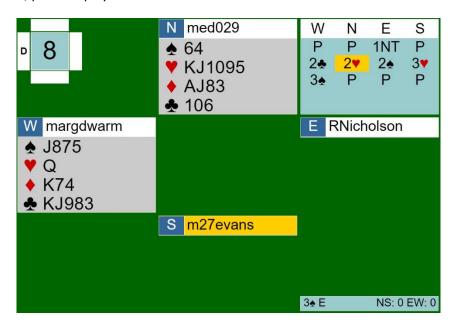
30/11/2020 Hand of the Week 41: More signalling in defence!

East opens 1NT and after West responds with Stayman you overcall 2♥, EW compete to 3♠.

Partner lead A♥, plan the play:



Unfortunately with the singleton on table it doesn't look like there is much scope for making tricks in hearts.

It looks like diamonds would be the best suit to attack as you have the AJ over the K. Can partner be persuaded to lead a diamond at trick 2?

I have covered this in a couple of previous hands- it is clear to partner that your play on the A vill not be for suit preference, but will be lead indicating- with a choice of minors to attack. A high heart will indicate the higher of the 2 suits, in this case diamonds, and a low card will indicate either the lower suit or no preference.

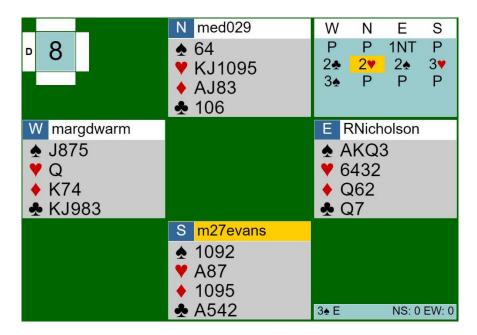
In this case wanting encourage diamonds play a high heart- the J♥ is the most encouraging!

Partner switched to the 10 ♦, and declarer plays the 4 ♦ - what next?

If partner had the Q → they should have lead it, therefore, it must be with declarer. All is not lost however! The 10 will knock out declarers Q and if partner gets back in then a second diamond through the K → should allow you to win you A → & J →.

The play is to duck this trick- the points should be fairly evenly spread so partner should have another entry to hand

The full deal:



NS should take a heart, a club and 2 diamonds to hold the contract to 9 tricks.

3♠ making scores 49% for NS, 3♠+1 scores 21%.

EW do well to compete as NS pairs left in 2♥ or 3♥ scored well on this board.

Remember to look out for your partners signals when defending!