

15/03/2021 Hand of the Week 55: Declarer play- using information from the bidding

D	N med029	W	N	E	S
9		1♠	1♦	X	P
		2♠	X	P	2♣
			P	P	P
W petergib8	♣2	E JRS53			
♠ QJ953		♠ K87			
♥ 94		♥ AJ53			
♦ K985		♦ 103			
♣ Q8		♣ AJ53			
	S m27evans				
		2♠ W	NS: 0 EW: 0		

North has shown diamonds and hearts, for South to then bid clubs it should be at least a 5 card suit. The 2♣ cannot be from a doubleton, so it must be a singleton with South holding 6 clubs. It is risky to duck as a second club would then give the defence a ruff. We can establish 2 club tricks in any case.

Looking at the other suits and again, using the information from the bidding I would place North with KQ♥ and AQ♦. It seems like we should have 4 spades, 2 clubs and 2 hearts, but we need to get to hand twice to finesse the hearts.

I would suggest winning the A♣ then leading the K♠ - there is a small risk here is the spades break badly, but they are the only entries to hand and we need to unblock the suit.

The K♠ is won by the A♠ in North, who then leads a second spade. Win this in hand and lead a heart, Q♥ from North and A♥ from hand, now another low spade to hand and a second heart, won by the K♥ in North. This was the full hand:

D		N med029		W		N		E		S	
9		♠ A642		1♠		1♦		X		P	
		♥ KQ108		2♠		X		P		2♣	
		♦ AQJ6				P		P		P	
		♣ 2									
W petergib8				E JRS53							
♠ QJ953				♠ K87							
♥ 94				♥ AJ53							
♦ K985				♦ 103							
♣ Q8				♣ AJ53							
				S m27evans							
				♠ 10							
				♥ 762							
				♦ 742							
				♣ K109764							
				2♠ W				NS: 0 EW: 0			

This is the current position with North on lead- NS have won 2 tricks and EW have won 4:

D	N med029	W	N	E	S
9	♠ 6	1♠	1♦	X	P
	♥ 108	2♠	X	P	2♣
	♦ AQJ6		P	P	P
	♣				
W petergib8		E JRS53			
♠ Q 5		♠			
♥		♥ J5			
♦ K985		♦ 103			
♣ Q		♣ J53			
	S m27evans				
	♠				
	♥ 7				
	♦ 742				
	♣ K109				
		2♣ W			NS: 0 EW: 0

North should lead their last spade, and West can now exit with the Q♣. South switches to a diamond which West ducks and now North has to lead with declarer needing 3 more tricks:

D	N med029	W	N	E	S
9	♠	1♠	1♦	X	X
	♥ 10	2♠	X	P	P
	♦ AQ6		P	P	P
	♣				
W petergib8	S m27evans	E JRS53			
♠ 5	♠	♠			
♥	♥	♥ J			
♦ K98	♦ 74	♦ 10			
♣	♣ 109	♣ J5			
		2♠ W	NS: 0 EW: 0		

A heart gives declarer 2 tricks on table, and a diamond lead gives declarer 2 diamonds, either way 8 tricks made!

This hand is a little tricky but the key points are using information from the bidding to place missing honours and managing your entries.