

MOUNTNESSING BRIDGE CLUB

Meets every Thursday at 7.25 for 7.30
at Mountnessing Village Hall, Roman Road, Mountnessing, Essex, England, CM15 0UG

“2020” Comments on “Bid 'misfits' cautiously”

Submission by Alaric Cundy: [Click here](#)

Commentary by Alaric Cundy

The first point to comment on is the bidding, especially the East / West bidding. East's choice of 1♠ is unusual; South's 2♦ is routine. Most players would expect West to have at least 8 HCPs for the 2♥ response, if not more. North has sufficient values to raise to 3♦, but strictly that bid should show 4-card support (bidding to the level of the fit), and additionally the potentially healthy-looking holdings in the opponent's two suits may have induced a pass.

Most players would regard East's 3♣ rebid as game-forcing after a 2-over-one change of suit by partner, so when that comes round to North, he will be in a bit of a dilemma. North has the opportunity to pass out what sounds like the opponents' game-forcing auction in a measly 3♣, and that thinking might well out-weigh any thoughts of now competing with 3♦.

As the original article points out, 1♣ would be most player's choice of opening bid on the East hand, and after that 1♦ from South would be automatic. The modern style is play a jump-shift response over a one-of-a-suit opener from partner as ultra weak, with a 6-card plus suit, and shortage in the opened suit. The West hand is absolutely ideal for a modern 2♥ bid. Now North will surely compete with 3♦; with some values to spare, a void in diamonds, and a doubleton trump opposite the known 6-card suit, East may well counter with a raise to 3♥. West will be sorely tempted to raise to 4♥, given that the hand is quite good for something that has been described as 'ultra weak'.

Next, it was time to analyse the hand using *Bridge Solver*, which can be downloaded for free, and used to analyse different contracts, Declarer plays and / or defences, on any hand – such as this one. The on-line version can be accessed through this link:
<https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/upload.htm>.

So what does *Bridge Solver* say about Heart or Club contracts by East / West? It confirms the assertions made in the original article that without a trump lead at trick one, East / West will enjoy a happy board so long as they don't over-bid it.

If East / West do contrive to play in the plausible 4♥ contract, then from somewhere North has to find a small trump to partner's Ace, followed by a second heart at trick 2 to defeat 4♥. Even with that defence, 3♥ will make.

I don't feel quite so bad about my defence to the 3♣ contract that we actually found ourselves contesting back in 2008. I suspect that most people would 'have a look' by trying a top diamond at trick 1, but anything other than a trump will allow East to make 10 tricks.

As a quick glance at the traveller for the board will show, of the seven times the hand was played, East / West twice reached 6♣, one of those doubled, twice reached 5♣ - all unsuccessfully, One pair tried 4♠x (not a good contract!!!). Only one pair chose hearts, and played in 4♥x. There is no record of the lead, but the contract went two off.

Having analysed this hand to death, my only regret is that back in 2008, my partner and I didn't hold the East / West cards!!!! [Or sit at a different NS table!!!]