

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 “One to dine out on...”

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

Commentary by Alaric Cundy

Firstly, it is worth reminding readers that anybody can download the ‘Bridge Solver’ analytical tool for free, and use it to analyse different Declarer plays and / or defences, on any hand of their choosing – such as this one! To access ‘Bridge Solver Online’ go to this link:

<https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/upload.htm> It is also available to download as an App for Android devices or Chromebooks or as a Windows desktop App here:

<https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/index.php?section=1> This tool is embedded into the Bridgewebs website and it is used by the ‘Play it Again’ facility.

Before going into the details of this hand, it is glaringly obvious that it revolves around a problem with the East / West bidding, and some readers will want to ask the question “Can’t North / South claim damage, and hence an adjusted score?”

In a situation like this, if a Director were called to the table, he / she would first want to establish whether the situation is a “mis-bid” or “misinformation”, and he / she would ascertain that point by looking at the players’ convention cards. The differences between the two are fairly clear-cut – it depends on which player has “forgotten the system”.

On this hand, it is clearly West who has got things wrong. His 5S response to RCKB was based on Clubs as the agreed trump suit; the system agreement says that spades are the agreed suit. West should have shown one key card, but instead showed 2 – plus the Queen of trumps for good measure. East took West’s bid as per the system, which is how they finished in a totally impossible grand slam. West’s mistake, as well as launching his side into a bizarre contract, also presented North / South with the opportunity to score a major gain on the board. In the case of a ‘mis-bid’ there is no redress; often a mis-bid will offer the opponents the chance to make a gain.

Misinformation is where a player gives an incorrect explanation of partner’s bid. Now, if the opponents can demonstrate clearly that they would have taken some alternative, more advantageous course of action – be that in bidding and / or in play – the the Director will judge that damage has been caused and will adjust the score.

So, to simplify:

- an incorrect explanation of the correct bid – misinformation, damage may be awarded;
- a system-correct explanation of an incorrect bid – mis-bid, damage not awarded

On this hand, we hardly need to deploy Bridge Solver to analyse what ought to happen on the East / West cards. Bridge Solver confirms that even 6S should fail whichever hand plays the contract.

- If played by West, as would be ‘normal’, Bridge Solver will lead a Club at trick 1, ruffed by South. South will then return a heart to partner’s Ace for a second club ruff. +100 to North / South.
- If the partnership somehow contrive for the hand to be played by East, it takes a heart to the Ace and a club back for a ruff to beat the contract by one trick. +50 to North / South.

Of course, 6C is an absolute lay-down by either hand, as one or other of the two potential losers in the red suits in the East hand can be discarded on West’s 5th spade.

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There is another issue to explore on this hand. Most partnerships have some gadget, such as Michaels, to show two-suited overcalls. Had the bidding started 1S – 2C (perhaps East subscribes to the “bide my time” theory) then many South players might have chipped in with a 2S bid, despite the adverse vulnerability. It would take a courageous South to come in over East’s actual 2NT bid. But if North / South do get into the bidding they have a good opportunity to make a significant save against the opponent’s assumed 6C bid. Ten tricks can be made in either red suit played from either hand, and so a rather improbable vulnerable against not six-level sacrifice bid would pay handsome dividends, yielding +9 IMPS for North / South against the opponents’ presumed 6C contract.