

Stop Digging

Looking at Tuesday's hands, one result stands out – Board 8 - N/S -1100.

This is an interesting board from several perspectives.

♠ A96542

♥ 7642

♦ 2

♣ 74

♠ J8

♥ J10

♦ J1093

♣ KQ632

♠ KQ1073

♥ AK3

♦ Q86

♣ 85

♠ ----

♥ Q985

♦ AK754

♣ AJ109

West is the dealer and will pass.

First question – does North open a weak 2♠?

Pro(s) it is the boss suit and gets your hand across.

Con(s) – slightly short in points, an anaemic suit, four of the other major, 2nd in hand you may be pre-empting your partner.

The cons outweigh the pros, but that won't stop some people from opening 2♠. East with a nice hand is snookered. He is not good enough for 2N.

Now the spotlight falls on South, a nice fourteen points, but a void in partner's suit. What are your agreements? Is a new suit by South forcing or not? Take a step back and think. What does partner need to make 3N? Even a maximum, especially if his points are in spades will not be enough. There is no guarantee that you can better the contract. Don't panic because you have a void in partner's suit. You are undoubled at this stage. Pass and take your medicine. You might even hear West balancing, and you are well placed to defend any contract.

I don't know how N/S managed to reach 3N, perhaps

P - 2♠ - P - 3♦

P - 3♠ - P - 3N

P - P - X

As the old saying goes – when you are in a hole, stop digging!