

## Scientific bidding

Board 22 caused much discussion at the Invitational Teams. Holding

♠ AKQ875

♥ KQ4

♦ ---

♣ AKJ2

you are contemplating how the bidding might proceed after a 2♣ opening bid, when pesky West opens 1♥ in front of you. The other two had already passed, West could have anything in third position. Almost certainly he has the ♥A and points in diamonds. It is likely that a club finesse will be successful if an entry is available to dummy. Game seems certain with slam a distinct possibility especially on a heart lead. Ignore the possibility of a singleton heart then a ruff, that would be unlucky.

How to bid the hand? What are the options?

Let's start with a double, expect 2♦ from partner, not what you want to hear. Bidding 2♠ would show a big hand with good spades, but partner may not appreciate the value of J♠ and Q♣ and pass.

So, doubling and bidding 3♠ would be game forcing opposite anything bar a complete bust. You are still no better off.

What about an immediate 5♠? Again, partner needs to value his cards, but he cannot distinguish between the Q♦ & Q♣.

Just bite the bullet and bid 6♠, you want to get there anyway, and it avoids mishaps on the way. Ok, the spades may not break, there may be no entry to partner's hand, a heart ruff may kill the contract by trick two. True, but there is no real way of finding information about partner's hand.

West with A♥ & ♦KQJT at one table doubled and at another bid 7♥. Neither were a success.

Oh what about the singleton heart? No problem, East on lead had a heart void.

Sometimes the stars are in alignment.

Well done to those who punted 6♠ right away.