

Well bid

The longer that you play, the more that you realise there are certain circumstances that conspire against you. Take Board 3 last night, those looking at the scores will scratch their heads and wonder how Jack & Catherine managed to play in 4H for a top when there is a grand slam the other way.

A mixture of discipline and brilliance conspired to bring about the final contract.

South was the dealer with E/W vulnerable.

♠653

♥QJ97654

♦1064

♣

♠AJ109

♥82

♦K9

♣A10754

♠Q8742

♥A3

♦A8

♣KJ92

♠K

♥K10

♦QJ7532

♣Q863

South opened 1♦

Do you bid by West? We have certain rules that we follow in this position. Although the hand has 12 points it falls down in two essential characteristics. To double we need tolerance for the unbid suits, in this case with a doubleton heart we cannot double for take out. To bid 2♣ we need a six card suit or say 15+ and a decent suit. So, W remains silent.

On this hand bidding would have worked, but sticking to your principles in the long run pays off.

What do you do with North's hand? There is nothing wrong in scraping up a heart bid, either at the one level or if playing weak jump shifts at the two level. Neither though will keep East silent. Unfortunately for us this is where brilliance played its part. Jack found the devastating bid of 4♥. Catherine was unsure of the meaning, even if she had alerted as a weak bid, East is in an invidious position. Would you bid vulnerable opposite a passed partner with a sketchy spade suit? Not surprisingly Cathy passed and the contract undoubled drifted three off.

That's how we got one of our several poor scores, but you can only applaud Jack's bid which exemplifies why he is heading for greater things.

Why is 4♥ a good bid?

It is pre-emptive. Jack suspects that East has a good hand and is putting the pressure on. At the vulnerability he doesn't care if the contract goes down, if so E/W almost certainly have game on. One thing he does know is that E/W have a big club fit. On a good day he'll find partner with a big hand. Either way he wins. DF says there is a grand slam in both clubs and NT for E/W.