

Mentor/Mentee game
12-March-2024
Mentor Discussion

Comments from Michael Lavine on the Unit 191 March 12
mentor/mentee game.

Board 2. East deals. NS vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ J942	
	♥ KQ92	
	♦ 62	
	♣ J73	
West		East
♠ Q87		♠ AKT53
♥ 753		♥ AJ4
♦ J		♦ AQ83
♣ KQ8642		♣ T
	South	
	♠ 6	
	♥ T86	
	♦ KT9754	
	♣ A95	

Board 2 saw every EW pairs play in four spades. Three pairs made it and four pairs went down. The bidding could have gone 1S-2S; 4S. South will likely lead a diamond and the jack will hold the first trick. East, declarer, can count 5 spade tricks (assuming a 3-2 break), one heart, and two diamonds, on the lead. That's only 8 tricks, so East must look for two more. They can come from promoting a club trick and ruffing a diamond. The main point of interest is that if East is going to ruff a diamond, that must be done before pulling trump. Also, the club trick must be established while dummy still has an entry. So, after winning the diamond jack, East could either lead the club king immediately or come to hand with a top spade to lead a club up to the king-queen. But pulling trump immediately will likely lead to defeat.

Board 3. South deals. EW vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ 8632	
	♥ T8	
	♦ 932	
	♣ T872	
West		East
♠ AQT74		♠ K9
♥ K9		♥ J753
♦ AQ64		♦ JT7
♣ A3		♣ K954
	South	
	♠ J5	
	♥ AQ642	
	♦ K85	
	♣ QJ6	

Board 3 had a wide variety of outcomes. Five Wests played 1 spade or 2 spades while two Easts played 3 notrump or 4 notrump. How did such a wide disparity come to be? I would expect South to open 1h. Then West has a decision. The first thing to realize is that West, with 19 HCP and some distribution, is too strong to overcall either 1s or 1nt. West should double. The question is whether West plans to rebid 1s or 1nt after East's response. Then I would expect East, with 8 HCP, a likely heart stopper, and no major, to bid 1nt. West can now show both the spades and the hand's strength by bidding 1s. East now knows the combined hands have about 26 or more points and should drive to game either by bidding 3nt immediately or by making a forcing bid. But at this point West has shown sufficient strength that East should know to force to game. As you can see, The combined hands ought to provide at least 4 spade tricks, 3 diamond tricks and 2 clubs tricks. On this layout they will provide more because the spade jack falls and both the heart ace and diamond king are onside.

Board 7. South deals. Both vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ A742	
	♥ K2	
	♦ T83	
	♣ 7642	
West		East
♠ 96		♠ QJT
♥ J98763		♥ A
♦ K		♦ AJ72
♣ KJT5		♣ AQ983
	South	
	♠ K853	
	♥ QT54	
	♦ Q9654	
	♣ —	

The bidding will likely go (P)-P-(P) to East. The point of interest is that East can open 1c and plan to reverse into 2d. It's good to know what a reverse is, how much extra strength it shows, and how to bid after one player reverses. See <https://kwbridge.com/rev.htm> and <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/detail/562> for details.

Board 17. North deals. Neither vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ QT	
	♥ J962	
	♦ AK52	
	♣ T42	
West		East
♠ K84		♠ A963
♥ A		♥ Q74
♦ T97		♦ QJ863
♣ AKJ983		♣ 7
	South	
	♠ J752	
	♥ KT853	
	♦ 4	
	♣ Q65	

On board 17, four EW pairs played at the two level in either spades or clubs while the other three pairs were in 3nt. I expect three passes to West and for West to open 1c. But how strong is West and what should West plan to rebid? With a good 15 HCP, good distribution, and all aces and kings outside of the long suit, I think West is good enough to make a jump rebid 3c. So the bidding might go 1c-1s; 3c. At this point East knows the partnership has 25 or more points, all suits stopped, and no major suit fit, so East can just bid 3nt. It takes a bit of luck to make but I'm surprised by how many pairs stopped at the two level.