

Margaret River Bridge #3

Sometimes we try to push our opponents into a high contract, hoping to take them down, but it can all go terribly wrong. Today's hand is just such an example.

Dlr - East	♠K 7 4 3		
Vul - NS	♥K Q 6		
	♦K Q 6		
	♣Q 10 4		
	N		
♠10 9 8 5		♠-	
♥J 10 9 7 2	W	E	♥A 8 5 4 3
♦5 4			♦A J 10 7 2
♣9 8			♣K 6 3
	S		
	♠A Q J 6 2		
	♥-		
	♦9 8 3		
	♣A J 7 5 2		

Bidding

N	E	S	W
	1H	1S	P
3S	4D	4S	5H
5S	6H	6S	

3S by North showed strength and support for partners suit, 4D by East showed a two suited hand hoping for support from partner. The bidding most probably should have stopped at 4S, but West decided that a sacrifice in 5H would be worthwhile at this vulnerability. The 6H and 6S bids were both a bit silly with people getting caught up in the heat of the bidding.

West leads a diamond, expecting hearts to be badly split. Dummy plays the King and East wins with the Ace. Also worried about the heart split, East leads back a diamond, taken by the Queen in dummy. South cannot lose another trick. Counting tricks, you have 5 spade tricks and 5 club tricks, if the King is on side. How will you be able to make the last trick needed to make this contract?

If Spades split badly, you only have one entry to dummy, so you mustn't waste the opportunity that you now have. The bidding indicates that all the missing points must be in the East hand so you take a risk and lead the King of Hearts. If East plays the Ace, you trump otherwise you throw away a diamond (ruffing finesse). East does play the Ace, so you are now in the South hand, with only one entry to dummy, the King of Spades.

You must now lead the Ace, Queen and Jack of spades followed by a small spade to dummy's King. Now take the Queen of hearts, since you won't get another chance. Exit dummy with the Queen of clubs, finessing the King of clubs and take all the club tricks and the last trump. A great, though totally unexpected, result

Winners on Monday night were Michael O'Hara and Steven Forward. Handicap winners were Bernadette Campbell and Glen Barter. To find out more about local bridge, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>