

Margaret River Bridge #4 071121

It is a general rule that you shouldn't let the opposition play in a contract at the one level, since you can most probably make 6 or 7 tricks in your best suit. Vulnerability (double penalties) must be considered when making a competitive bid since you don't want to give your opponents more points if you go off than they would have gained making their contract.

Dlr - North	♠AKQJ 8 2		
Vul - NS	♥A		
	♦5 2		
	♣J 9 6 3		
	N		
♠7 6 5 3		♠9 4	
♥K10 9 4 3	W	E	♥J 8 7 5
♦AK 7 4			♦10 9
♣ -		S	♣AKQ 8 7
		♠10	
		♥Q 6 2	
		♦QJ 8 6 3	
		♣10 5 4 2	

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1S	2C	P	2H
2S	3H	P	P
P			

North opens a spade and East must now consider whether to make a bid. East is a bit light in points, but if they don't say something now, they may never get another chance to tell their partner they have 10 points. East can also rebid the clubs, which helps. By opening, EW eventually end up in a 3H contract, which is the correct place to be. (Unfortunately, West may not stop and bid 4H, but given the void in partners suit this is not really advisable.)

North leads the Ace, King and the Queen of Spades. What do you play from East on this third lead and how do you proceed from here to make the contract?

If you count your losers, you should only lose the two spades, along with the Ace and Queen of hearts meaning that you should make your contract. There is an old saying, "Never send a boy on a man's mission" and this is very true on this occasion. You know that South can overtrump whatever you play from East so you must play a trump large enough to force out the Ace or Queen. If you play the low trump, South will win with the 6 and then trump in again later with the Queen after North takes the Ace of hearts and leads a fourth spade.

When considering how you were going to play this hand, did you determine how you were going to get to dummy to be able to win the club tricks? With good defence, you may only be able to get to dummy once (before it is too late) so you must take the club tricks as soon as possible, discarding losing spades and diamonds from West. If you are allowed to win the third trick and then attack trumps too quickly, you might find yourself stuck in hand with losing diamond tricks.

Winners on Monday night were Alistair Campbell and Dianne Bishop Handicap winner was David Leggot. To find out more about local bridge, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>