

Margaret River Bridge #071219

Sometimes shape is more important than points and being able to recognise this can be rewarded with some great contracts. On today's hand, some people may pass it in, but with some aggressive bidding, an unexpected game can be made.

Dealer - West Vul - N-S	♠Q 9 8 5 ♥10 ♦J 8 5 2 ♣K 7 5 4	
	N	
♠AJ 6 3 2 ♥A 7 6 5 4 ♦6 ♣8 2	W	E
		♠10 ♥KQ 9 8 2 ♦KQ 9 4 ♣Q10 3
	S	
	♠K 7 4 ♥J 3 ♦A 10 7 3 ♣A J 9 6	

Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
P	1H	Dbf	4H
all pass			

On this bidding sequence, West does a speculative jump to game. This has the advantage of preventing the N-S pair from finding a possible fit in the minors and also from transmitting information to each other about possible leads.

Many players use weak multi-twos and in this case, West may have opened 2H to indicate two suits of the same rank. A weak response from East of 2S could see them languish in this contract, which doesn't make, whereas a strong response of 2NT by East opens the way for partner to bid their suit. If the next response from West is one of the minors, then a correction to Diamonds would be made. If partner responds one of the majors, then East should bid to game in Hearts.

South leads a heart, hoping to reduce trump-in options later. How would you proceed from here to make your contract?

This is a reasonably straight forward contract, you have 1 diamond loser and two club losers. You can ruff out the remaining diamonds, spades and club. So long as you don't continue to lead trumps after two rounds, there are no problems.

What is more important with this hand is whether you could see the potential once the bidding started, particularly if you are playing multi-two openings. With a combined total of 21 high card points, you wouldn't normally be in game, but with this fit and the shortages, this is a strong hand.

Winners on Monday night were Steve Forward and Michael O'Hara. Handicap winners were Carsten Hoper and Sue Crabbe, which was great to see since both only visit us on occasions. To find out more about local bridge, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>