

## Margaret River Bridge #080102

As I have stated on several occasions, people usually don't like minor suit contracts and today's hand is no exception. To make a game in clubs, you are required to make 11 tricks but to make game in no-trumps you only need to make 9 tricks.

Dealer - East	♠KQ 9 6	
Vul - None	♥K J 6	
	♦J 9 4 2	
	♣10 6	
	N	
♠10 2		♠A 7 5 4
♥A 8 2	W	♥Q 9 7
♦Q 8 7		♦A K 3
♣A 8 7 5 3		♣J 9 2
	S	
	♠J 8 3	
	♥10 5 4 3	
	♦10 6 5	
	♣K Q 4	

### Bidding

N	E	S	W
	1C	P	2C
P	2S	P	3C
P	3NT	all pass	

The 1C opening by East suggests 13 points but no 5 card major. 2C from West suggests a five card suit, but does not necessarily mean they do not have a 4 card major. East asks the question about spades and the 3C response from West suggests long clubs and limited points. The East-West pair are now committed to making 9 tricks in clubs and East has to decide if it might be possible to make 9 tricks in no-trumps (since this would give them 400 points compared to 110 points). With a stopper in every suit, and South having to lead to him, East takes the plunge and bids 3NT.

South will most probably lead the 3 of hearts, since it is the fourth highest in their longest suit. West will play low, guaranteeing the Queen of hearts will make a trick. It is always good to keep the Ace since it gives you the ability to stop the opposition at a time of your choosing, it also forces North to play a large card since they do not know what they have to beat in East. North now has to decide whether to play another heart or to swap to spades. Continuing the hearts doesn't look promising so North leads the King of Spades followed by a small spade, which South wins with the Jack. South now leads back another spade, which East takes with the Ace. You have now lost three tricks. Can you see how you are going to make the contract from here?

This contract cannot make unless South's has both the King and Queen of clubs and you are able to finesse one of them, so lead a small diamond to dummy's Queen. Now lead a small club and cover whatever North plays so that South must win the trick. Whatever South leads, you win the next trick in East and then lead a club. All you have to do is beat whatever South plays and you will then take the rest of the club tricks, making the contract.

I would love to say that I would have played the hand this way, but I don't think I would and hence I would have gone down, whereas 3C is a contract that I could have made. This would have been justice since it was only greed that took East out of a safe contract into a 3NT contract and greed shouldn't always be rewarded.

With Christmas and New Year, we are took a couple of weeks break in bridge, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and made a New Year's resolution to try something different, like learning to play bridge, Monday nights and Friday afternoons.