

Margaret River Bridge #080116c03

After the Christmas break, a good crowd turned up for the first night of the year. We also had two sets of visitors coming along to play while on holidays. My normal partner was still partying last week so I partnered Carsten for the first time. We didn't have a great partnership understanding since we play different systems so we spent the first few minutes at the beginning of the evening discussing what our bids were going to mean. At various times throughout the evening we queried a bid that one of us might have made to make sure we understood its meaning. Bridge is all about communicating with your partner so it is important to discuss misunderstandings, rather than chastise you partner for not being able to read your mind.

Unfortunately we had very few good hands throughout the evening to fine-tune our understanding of our bidding but we did have some fun on the second last hand of the evening against an unlucky Bernadette and Alastair. The resulting bidding sequence was interesting to say the least.

Dealer - South ♠7 5 3 2
Vul - Nil
 ♥-
 ♦10 5 4 2
 ♣K 9 7 5 2

		N		
♠10 9				♠4
♥AKT 6 5 3	W		E	♥QJ 8 7 4 2
♦AQJ 6 3				♦K 7
♣-		S		♣A 8 6 3
		♠AKQJ 8 6		
		♥9		
		♦9 8		
		♣Q J T 4		

Bidding

N	E	S	W
		1S	X
P	2H	2S	4H
4S	5H	5S	6H
all pass			

Bernadette opened 1S and Carsten, with a strong two suited hand, decided to double to see what I would respond. Alistair passed and I went 2H, indicating four or more hearts. Bernadette pushed on with 2S before Carsten decided to cut off the bidding with 4H.

When people are not vulnerable they tend to overbid rather than let the opposition get a possible game so Alastair came in at this point with 4S (his void in hearts obviously makes his hand much stronger). I immediately went to 5H since I had support from my partner and good off suit. Bernadette counted her losers and could only see four so felt 5S was a good sacrifice. Carsten now counted his losers and could see at most two given my support and bid onto 6H. If we were to make this contract we would get 980 points.

Bernadette now has to decide if she thinks we can make 6H. If she thinks we can't, then she should pass, if she is certain we won't make it then she should double us. If she thinks we can make the contract then a sacrifice bid of 6S would be good. Going off three (doubled) would lose only 500 points; going off four (doubled) would lose 800 points. Both of these are better scores for them than letting us make 6H.

Unfortunately the bidding was too erratic to be certain of any outcome so Bernadette passed and as you can see by the cards, we only lose the Ace of Spades, making a good slam.

There was a tie on Monday night with Bruce Darby and Carsten Hoper drawing with Bernadette and Alistair Campbell. Handicap winners were Dianne and Roger Last. To find out more about local bridge, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>