

Margaret River Bridge #080123c04

I played this hand last week and was very disappointed with my effort, since on face value you appear to have plenty of tricks. Unfortunately the East West hands didn't fit together very well and I made a mess of it, so I went away to analyse what went wrong.

Dealer - North	♠A 10 3		
Vul - EW	♥10 8 6 2		
	♦10 9 7		
	♣9 7 2		
		N	
♠Q 7			♠K 6 4 2
♥AK 7 5 4	W	E	♥Q J
♦J 2			♦AK 8 5 3
♣J 10 6 5			♣Q 4
		S	
			♠J 9 8 5
			♥9 3
			♦Q 6 4
			♣AK 8 3

Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	1D	P	1H
P	1S	P	2H
P	2NT	P	3NT
all pass			

The bidding was fairly standard indicating good strength in diamonds and hearts with a hold in spades. Since West had a 4 card club suit they had no concerns about pushing on to 3NT.

The lead was a small spade from South, low card from West and North played the Ace (this is not advisable, since it allows the K and Q to both make). North returned the spade ten, which ran around to the Queen. I lead back a small heart to the Queen and then the Jack, leaving myself with three heart tricks in dummy, but no easy way to get to them. I decided to lead a small diamond to the Jack, South played the Queen and lead another spade, which I took in hand with the King. I could now get to the heart tricks by leading another small diamond, but this is when I realised that I was in trouble. I had eight tricks, with at least two more still in hand but no way to get to them. I had to lead a club and lost the last three tricks to go down one.

What could I have done better? How could I avoid the problem of not being able to get between the two hands?

I should have attacked the clubs after taking the two heart tricks. By leading the Queen, South will overtake with the Ace and lead back a spade. This would be taken by East's King, and another club is lead, again taken by South. South can now take their fourth spade but what can they lead after this? They only have diamonds and clubs left and either lead gives me the remaining tricks. I forgot to lose the losers early, while I still had controls in all the other suits. It is often better to have the opposition leading to you rather than you always leading at them.

Winners on Monday night were Bernadette and Alistair Campbell. Handicap winners were Bruce Darby and Sally O'Rourke. You can learn to play bridge, lessons will be beginning at our club on Friday, 28th March, 1:30pm till 3pm at the Silver Chain Day Centre. Go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge> to find out more or ring Bernadette on 9757 2490.