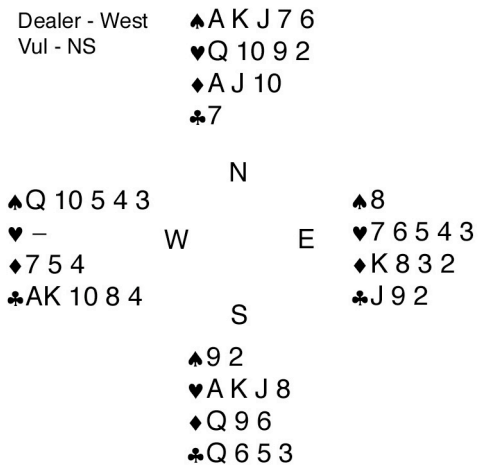
Margaret River Bridge #080130c05

We played this hand last week and found it very interesting. It it a good example of forcing bids and bad splits. North opens 1 spade and South's response of 2NT indicated more than 10 points and most probably two spades. It invites partner to go to game. North responds with 3H to tell partner they have four or more hearts and also indicates poor distribution for No-Trumps. Since South has four card support in hearts they bid to game.



Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
1S	P	2NT	P
3H	P	4H	All Pass

East leads the singleton spade taken by North with the Ace, over West's Queen. North then gets the bad news about the heart split when they lead their two, taken by South with the Ace. North now knows that they most probably have losers in hearts, clubs and diamonds as well as spades given the likely split, which means the contract goes down. On further analysis North should realise that they have six top hearts between the two hands so this is a perfect situation to cross-ruff and make the most of them. Can you see how to make this contract?

A small diamond is lead from dummy losing to East's King. East returns the jack of clubs, taken by West who then returns a spade (partner's first lead). East trumps and leads back another club, taken by North with a trump. North now takes the Ace and Queen of diamonds and then leads spades and clubs, trumping each time in the other hand. East cannot over trump since all their trumps are small. This was a lot of fun and minimised the risk of further bad splits.

It is important during this play to keep an eye on the spades being dropped since after the trump in, it might be possible to draw trumps and run the remaining spades tricks. Sometimes we continue to play down a particular line without paying attention to the cards being played, hence missing alternative lines of play.

Winners on Monday night were Bruce Darby and Sally O'Rourke. Handicap winners were Steve Forward and Michael O'Hara. To find out more about local bridge, including lessons, go to our website at http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge

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