

Margaret River Bridge #080213c07

by Bruce Darby

Occasionally we get a hand that is just too good to believe and we are sometimes a little cautious about bidding to the hands potential. In this hand West opens 2C, indicating 20 or more points. East looks at their own hand and realises that you have virtually all the points and must end up in a grand slam. The question is in what contract.

Dealer - South	♠8 7 5		
Vul - Both	♥J		
	♦8 7 5 4 3		
	♣9 8 4 2		
		N	
♠AKQJ 9 3			♠6
♥K Q T 9	W		E
♦K 2			♥A 5 3
♣Q			♦A Q 9 6
		S	♣AK 7 6 3
		♠T 4 2	
		♥8 7 6 4 2	
		♦J T	
		♣J T 5	

Bidding

N	E	S	W
		P	2C
P	3C	P	3S
P	4C	P	4H
P	5C	P	5NT
P	7H	all pass	

After a 2C opening, any response, other than 2D, is seen as encouraging and allows you to give your partner information. 3C is saying that clubs is your best suit. The 3S response indicates that spades is West's best suit. At this stage East goes 4C ace asking, which is tricky since you haven't established an agreed suit with your partner. The responses of 4H (1 ace) and 5NT (3 kings) tells East that they have everything between them so East decides to go grand slam. Unfortunately at this stage doubt creeps in and East decides (unwisely) that a bid of 7H would give partner the option of bidding either 7S or 7NT (East should have just bid 7NT himself). West has no idea why partner suddenly went 7H and passes leaving EW in a seemingly silly contract.

North leads the Jack of diamonds and you lay down your hand (quickly rushing out for a drink so you are not abused). West surveys the mess they are left in and decides to hope for the best and allows it to run around to the King of Diamonds, followed by the King of hearts. When North drops the Jack, declarer becomes alarmed, but ever the optimist they play the Queen of hearts to see if North was trying to trick them. Unfortunately they weren't and declarer now knows that South still has 3 trumps. Again you stop and ponder your fate until inspiration strikes and you have a plan (Can you see a way to make the contract from here?)

You lead the Queen of clubs, then a small diamond to the Ace. Follow up with the Ace and King of clubs. Lead a low spade to the Ace, followed by the King and Queen, discarding your clubs. With three cards still left to play, South only has the three trumps left in hand. You lead another spade and trump with your Ace. South must just discard a trump. You now triumphantly lead the Queen of diamonds, over trumping in hand and play the last trump to make contract. East has returned by now, and is so relieved that West no longer need to tell everyone that "you are the worst bridge bidder they have ever come across".

Last week the top three were very close but the winners were Bruce Darby and Sally O'Rourke. Handicap winners were Glenda Barter and Diane Bishop. To find out more about local bridge, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>