

Margaret River Bridge #080312

We all play different systems and some hands favour a particular system more than others. Hopefully everything will balance out in the end. When things don't go as you hoped you must try to minimise your losses and not chastise yourself too severely just because others seemed to have played the hand better.

Dealer - East	♠ J 8 3	
Vul - NS	♥ 9 3	
	♦ 9 7 6 4 2	
	♣ K T 5	
	N	
♠ T 7 6		♠ K 4
♥ Q T 8 4 2	W	♥ A J 6 5
♦ A		♦ K Q 8 5
♣ A Q J 8		♣ 7 6 3
	S	
	♠ A Q 9 5 2	
	♥ K 7	
	♦ J T 3	
	♣ 9 4 2	

Bidding

N	E	S	W
	1D	P	1H
P	2H	P	4H
	all pass		

Playing 5 card majors, East will open 1D to indicate 13 or more points, with diamonds being there strongest suit. West will respond with 1H (keeping the bid low since partner must respond). When East responds with 2H, West will jump to game.

North now has to decide what to lead. They wouldn't lead a club since you never lead away from a King (in this case it would give West 2 club tricks). Diamonds do not look good since you don't want them led back. You don't really want spades led back so many people would lead a trump. East would duck and South would take the King of hearts. South leads back a small club, since this is dummy's weakest suit. How would you play from here to make this contract?

Many people would be tempted to try the finesse here, by playing the Queen of clubs. This would be a very poor decision for two reasons. South is unlikely to lead away from a King so the finesse isn't likely to work. Spades are a major problem for you since you could lose two tricks if North was to win the trick and lead them. West must put up the Ace of clubs. They should then lead the Ace of diamonds, before leading the Queen of hearts followed by a small heart, won in dummy by the Ace. You can now play the two high diamonds, discarding two spades from West. You exit dummy with a club, playing the Queen, which will be overtaken by the King in North. North will lead back a spade, but it is too late now and the contract will be made.

North made a mistake in the very first lead, they should have lead a spade and then the contract could not make. At the beginning of this article I mentioned that some hands favour different systems. Many people open with a four card major, which means that East would have opened 1H. The contract would still have been 4H, but South would have been on lead. There is no lead that South can make to prevent this contract from making. Therefore the mostly likely result of this contract would depend on the system that you use rather than how you played the contract.

Bernadette and Alastair Campbell celebrated being able to play together again this week, by winning on Monday night. Ed and Eleanor Green also made a great return to the tables by winning the handicap section. To find out more about local bridge, including the upcoming lessons, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>