

16- 2024 – Bidding on after a Pre-Empt

Here is an interesting Hand:

Dealer S, All Vul

| | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| | NORTH | |
| | AQ82 | |
| | AK10762 | |
| | A64 | |
| | - | |
| | | |
| | WEST | EAST |
| | KJ63 | 10754 |
| | 83 | J4 |
| | K972 | QJ108 |
| | K75 | J102 |
| | | |
| | SOUTH | |
| | 9 | |
| | Q95 | |
| | 53 | |
| | AQ98643 | |

The bidding went:

| South | West | North | East |
|--------|------|-------|------|
| 3C (1) | P | P (2) | P |

- (1) Pre-emptive [many Pairs play the rule that you promise 7 Tricks Vul, 6 Not Vul to make such a bid. Here South is a little short for that, but has a sound Club suit and a singleton Spade]
- (2) North thinks the NS hands will be mis-fits, so Passes. What do you think of the Pass?

ANALYSIS

I think the Pass is wrong – North has 4 ½ winners, and should bid 3H (telling partner – I have a strong Heart suit and no interest in Clubs. There are 7 Hearts missing. Given South has at least 7 Clubs, with only 6 Cards left, having many hearts is unlikely. Still, if South has 1 or 2, it may turn out better than 3C

On the Hand above, South would bid 4H with 3 Hearts to the Q and a singleton Spade

THE PLAY

NS can make 6 Hearts, by Ruffing out Spades (throwing a Diamond on CA) or by finessing SQ early on and then Ruffing out Spades

MORAL OF THE STORY

Pre-emptive bids can make it hard for the Opponents to find their best Contract. But it can also be hard for Partner after a Pre-emptive bid

But you should bid on if you have a strong Hand and a misfit in the Pre-empted Suit

Ian Morison

19 April 2024