

19- 2024 – A Remote Chance to Make

Sometimes you end up in a poor Contract, but you must look for a way to make it

Dealer W, Nil Vul

	NORTH	
	A10	
	-	
	A10753	
	J109752	
WEST		EAST
K2		86543
AQJ74		98652
42		Q9
AKQ4		3
	SOUTH	
	QJ97	
	K103	
	KJ86	
	86	

The bidding was comical to say the least, but it was quite late in the night:

West	North	East	South
1H	X (1)	2H	2S
3H (2)	3C	P	3NT (3)
X (4)	P (4)	P	P

- (1) This is a classic case for a 2NT overcall, showing both minors
- (2) I may have bid 4H with a 4-loser Hand, but perhaps West feared North had more, and was sitting over him
- (3) South thinks North must have more for the Double
- (4) With 19 Points, who can blame West
- (5) North thought about bidding 4D, but passed (5D makes)

THE PLAY

West played off CA and CK. He could not play CQ, setting up 3 Club winners in Dummy. He could not lead away from SK, and feared South would have Diamonds for the bid, so led HA then HQ

Declarer has lost 3 Tricks so far, and knows CQ is still with West, so must win HQ with HK

He cannot let EW in again, as they will run Hearts. His only hope is to find West with SK single or S Kx

So, he leads S7 from Hand. West does not cover. S9 wins, SA then drops SK (the Gods smile on South)

South now has 1H and 4 Spade Tricks. He decides East is slightly more likely to have longer Diamonds than West, as West has shown 4 Clubs to East's 1 Club. So, he plays DA, then leads towards DKJ in Hand. DQ falls (South would have finessed if it had not fallen, and South makes 10 tricks Doubled

West reminds everyone as the score is tallied that he Doubled with 19 Points and his Partner promised a few for the 2H raise. 3NT looked hopeless

MORAL OF THE STORY

South simply took the only route to victory, and it paid off. NS would have gone down 4 if SK was with East, or down 1 if West had 3+ Spades to SK

The moral for Declarer? Never give up!

Ian Morison

10 May 2024