

25 - 2023 – Interesting Hand

I sat North during the week, and this Hand came up:

Dealer S, NS Vul

NORTH

J3
9
KQJ10973
864

The Bidding:

S	W	N	W
1NT (1)	2H (2)	???	(3)

- (1) My Partner, South bids INT = 15-17 HCP
- (2) West overcalls 2H – EW are Not Vul, but West should have strong Hearts and some Points
- (3) What should I bid?

I quickly dismissed a Slam, as our total Points would only ever be in the range 21-23 Points. I also thought Doubling was not right as we may have Game on Vul – and Partner would probably read it as asking for a suit

So, do I Pass, bid 3D, 4D or 5D?

Bidding 4D or 5D cuts out 3NT. As West may have very Strong Hearts, I decided to leave the decision to Partner to bid 3NT if Partner had Heart cover, so I bid 3D

Partner then bid 3NT, passed out

Here are the full Hands:

	J3	
	9	
	KQJ10973	
	864	
KQ62		109874
K8642		J105
-		A42
A1075		92
	A5	
	AQ73	
	865	
	KQJ3	

The Lead:

West led SK, you let it make. SQ follows and you take it

[I think SK is the right lead, or C5 – but definitely not a Heart]

The Play:

Things are a bit grim without DA. But you lead a Diamond, East takes DA and eventually you lose 4 Spades, DA and CA, down 2

You Reflect:

If only West had led a Heart or a Club, making would have been easy..... or would it?

It's not that easy at all! East must simply refrain from playing DA until the third Diamond. Then lead a small Heart, and EW will make 7 tricks, down 3

Unfortunately, the Contract is doomed on the lie of the cards

MORAL OF THE STORY

Bidding this hand is hard, but 3NT is far better than 5D, as you need to make 2 less tricks to make game

East must not let South into Dummy to run the long Diamonds. East can see 7 Diamonds in Dummy, and has 3 Diamonds. When South plays a Diamond, and Partner shows out, he knows to hold off until the third Diamond is played by South

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

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