

## Hand of the Week 09/03/19

By Geof Brod

### Bid'em up with good trumps

You're playing in the Warwick KOs and you've been doing well so far, advancing to the finals. On the first board out of the box they deal you ♠953 ♥KQ53 ♦83 ♣543. Everyone's red and your LHO opens 1♣; partner calls 2NT and your RHO passes. Partner's 2NT call is unusual, showing two suits with at least 5 cards in each. Normally an unusual NT would show the minors but over 1♣ you play that it shows the lowest two unbid suits, here hearts and diamonds.

Your agreement is that this call can have a wide range. Potentially, it could be done on a shapely 8 count, but it could also be a very good hand where partner simply wants to get both of her suits into the auction immediately and be certain of getting another chance to bid. To jump in response doesn't necessarily promise a good hand, just a good fit. Usually, partner will have not a good hand and will simply be looking to make life difficult for the opponents. If, in response, you don't fit either of partner's suits, your preference could be on as little as a small doubleton.

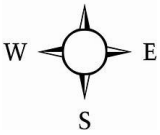
Here you have a clear preference and you have super support for hearts. Yes, yes, I know it's a 9 loser hand, but just give some thought for a moment about a hand partner could have. For instance with as little as ♠xx ♥Axxxx ♦AQxxx ♣x, you have a decent play for four hearts if you get reasonable splits and find the diamond king in the slot. That diamond finesse is through the opening bidder. And your combined HCP total is just 15.

So despite your 9 losers you jump to 4♥. Who knows, maybe you have a make and, if not, at least you will be making life difficult for the opponents.

Your LHO has a clear problem over your call. After some thought, he doubles and everyone passes. The auction has been:

West	North	East	South
1♣	2NT	Pass	4♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Time to look at the entire hand:

Dlr: W	♠ 64	
Vul: Both	♥ AJ986	
	♦ QJ652	
	♣ K	
♠ KQJ	N	♠ A10872
♥	W  E	♥ 10742
♦ A109	S	♦ K74
♣ AQJ8762	♠ 953	♣ 10
	♥ KQ53	
	♦ 83	
	♣ 9543	

The opening lead is the ♠Q (our opponents lead the lower of touching honors from length) and the play proceeds quickly as the defense is entitled to 5 top tricks in the plain suits and are able to score an over ruff when the second round of clubs is led through dummy. Alas, declarer was careless in the play and lost an additional trick he might have avoided (c'est moi, I confess).

That's minus 1100. Certainly doesn't feel good. But look at the hands. E/W are on for either 6 clubs or 7 spades. It's not unreasonable to hope that teammates might get to a slam. And look at the problem your 4H bid created for West. He was almost compelled to double. A five club bid could have run into a very bad break when a 4 spade contract was quite playable. Were the South hand to bid just 3H the opponents might well have been able to sort everything out given the extra level of bidding.

So what was the upshot? Teammates found their spade fit and bid a small slam. That was a win of 8 imps. Minus 1100 isn't always a bad result.