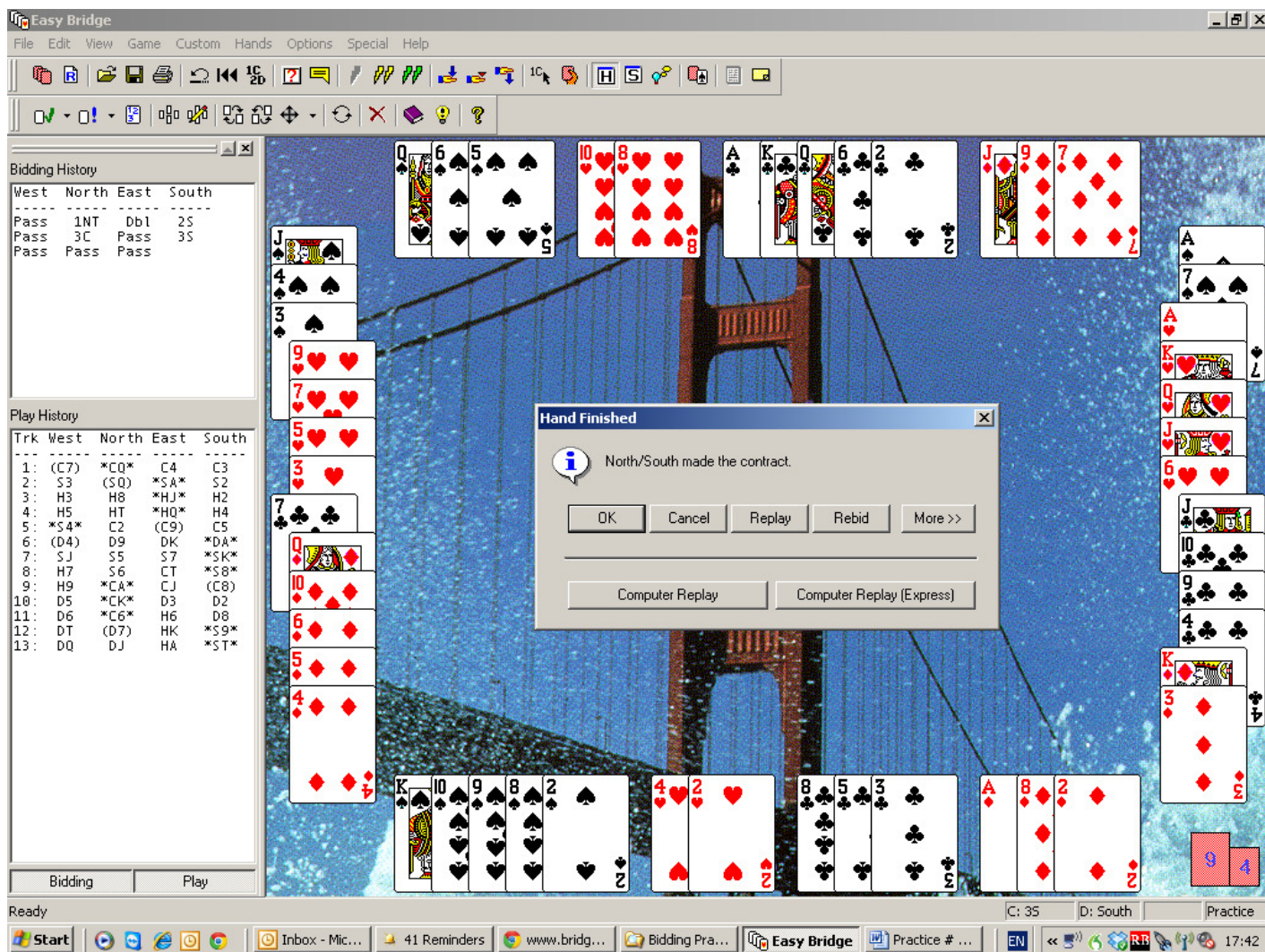


Under the Benjaminised Acol that's popular in Rineanna Bridge Club, the N-S bidding should go: 1NT- Double (E) - 2S (free bid, indicating a useful suit) - ??? . Here, North – the computer – choose to bid 3C. I am ambivalent about this. It implies the upper limit of the Weak NT [untrue!], but on the other hand it is a pretty solid suit. Also, South shouldn't be freely bidding Spades without five, so North does have the requisite "3-to-an-Honour". When I bid this hand, I went (as you can see) 3S, to which North would be perfectly entitled to bid 4S. In other words, North's 3C put the partnership on a slippery slope!! The most salient point here is that the partnership should have a forcing bid agreed for South to employ if he is interested in Game – and only he can decide – so I believe that North was wrong to bid again. (Vie would be *furios*!!)

In any event, and in spite of the Club ruff, 3S is solid (as I played it), whereas any NT Contract is crucified via the red suits, and either is a very obvious lead.



Note: in the Play History panel that the (brackets) indicate the card lead, and the asterisk* indicates the winning card.

Enjoy mulling it over, and I'd welcome any comments, queries, suggestions etc.

Jimmy O'Brien