

This is an example of absolutely dreadful Bidding!! Any person who bids like East will only do so opposite me **only once....** (how's that for arrogance?) Seriously, there is no rhyme nor reason to that 4 Diamond bid by East. It is a weak take-out, which defies all logic! (Not that I'd tell a Client, but computers can be so stupid....)

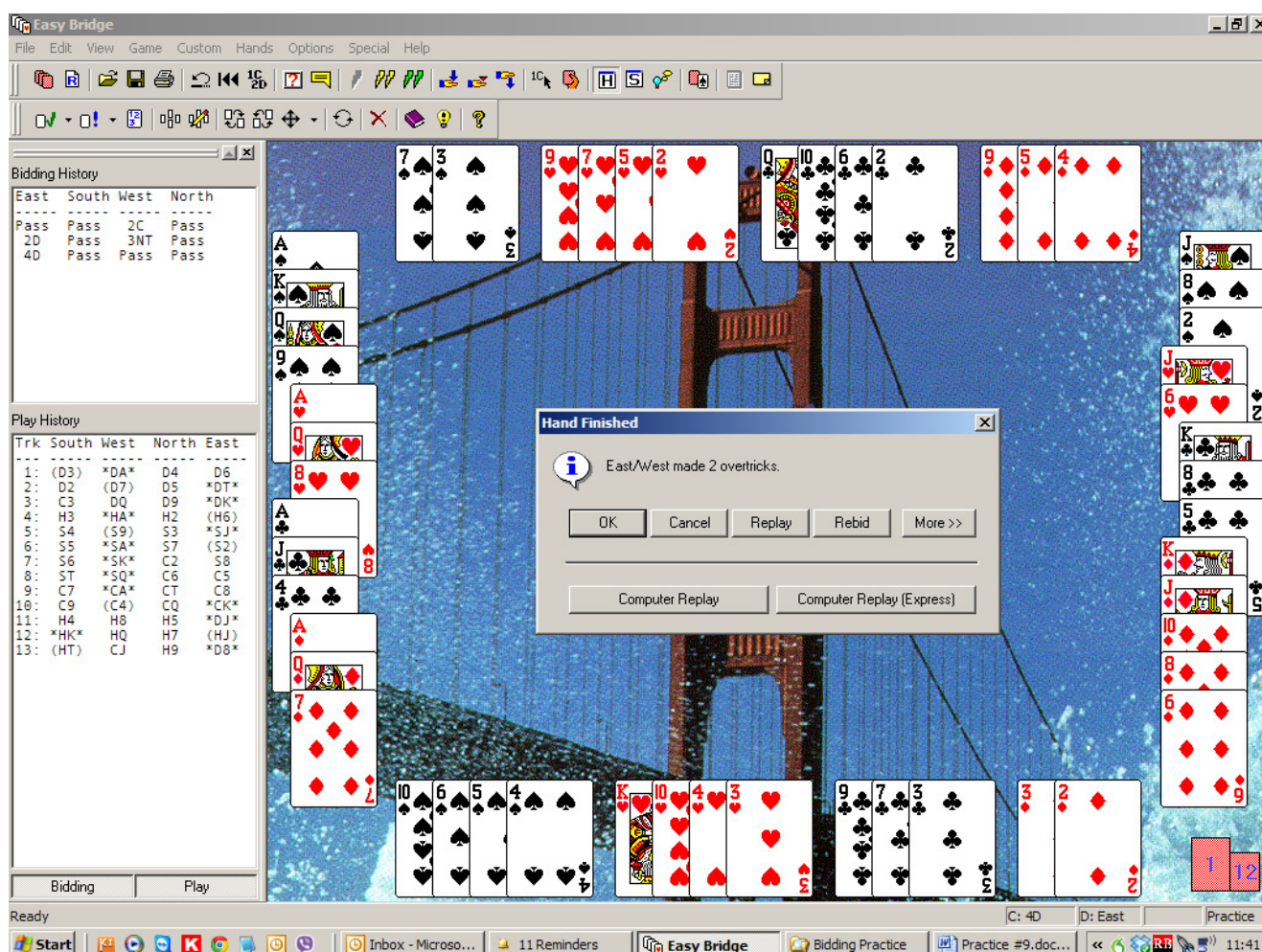
Bidding:

As usual, I recommend the Benjamin Big Two bid. Here's how it **should have** worked here (Dealer East):

E	S	W	N
P	P	2C (Benjy Big 2)	P
2D (Relay)	P	3NT (25-26 HCP)	P
4C (Gerber)	P	5C (4 Aces)	P
5D (Kings?)	P	5S (1 King)	P
6 or 7 NT	All Pass		

East's bidding is very reasonable. Partner has shown a minimum of 25 HCP's, I've nine, so Six is stitched – especially with the 5-Card Diamond suit. The thinking behind the Grand Slam is simply that it will at worst come down to a finesse (they frequently do!), but also that North is pretty much end-played at trick One – a Spade or Diamond are the only lead that don't give West his 13th trick!! Even if East wimps out, West should himself go for the Grand, for that reason.

A point of note in the bidding: I like the use of the "0 or 4 Aces" use of 4D over Gerber. It keeps space open. I also feel that the subsequent King enquiries (and be sure you agree what constitutes this!) should only be used where the partnership has 4 Aces – thus allowing both Partners to re-evaluate their hands.



Play: The Small Slam is cold. Seven, after a Spade or Diamond lead makes you guess which finesse works (and if a Spade remember to hold your hand up in future against **that** opponent...), but a quick run of the Spades and Diamonds might give you some clues. Try it and see....

Jimmy O'Brien