

















Hand 9, 3/4/2013:

Dealer North, Nil ALL

	North	East
West	 K J 8 7	 A Q 6 5 4 3
 10 2	 A Q 9	 J 8 6 3
 10 7 5 4	 A	 6 5
 7 4 3	 K Q 10 8 2	 7
 A 6 4 3	South	
	 9	
	 K 2	
	 K Q J 10 9 8 2	
	 J 9 5	

The most interesting facet of this Hand from Wednesday in RBC was the frequency at which it was played in 3 NT.

The Bidding usually went: 1C - P(1) - 1D(2) - P  
3NT - P - P - P

(1) is a suggestion of mine, where East bids a Weak 2 Spades, both interference & lead directing. (2) might not be everybody's choice - too weak? - but it simply gives South a chance to evaluate the combined hands: He will be first to be able to gauge the strength. 3NT is showing 19 points.

At this point, Souths who stopped totally ignored the fact that they had six tricks on offer to North, and, more importantly, a suit that stood on it's own. I believe the proper Contract is 5 Diamonds.

In the Play - sadly - every pair made 3 NT+ (we made 5 Diamonds for a poor score). This highlights the value of the Spade bid: A Spade lead (the "Other Major", as I alluded to before) will put 3 NT in difficulty, but it should still make - thanks to the Heart King in South for entry to the Diamonds. And the 7 & 8 of Spades! Swop the 8-7 and 6-5 of Spades between North & East and 3 NT goes down!! A Spade lead also prevents the usual three overtricks!!

Six Diamonds needs very accurate defence to be beaten.