

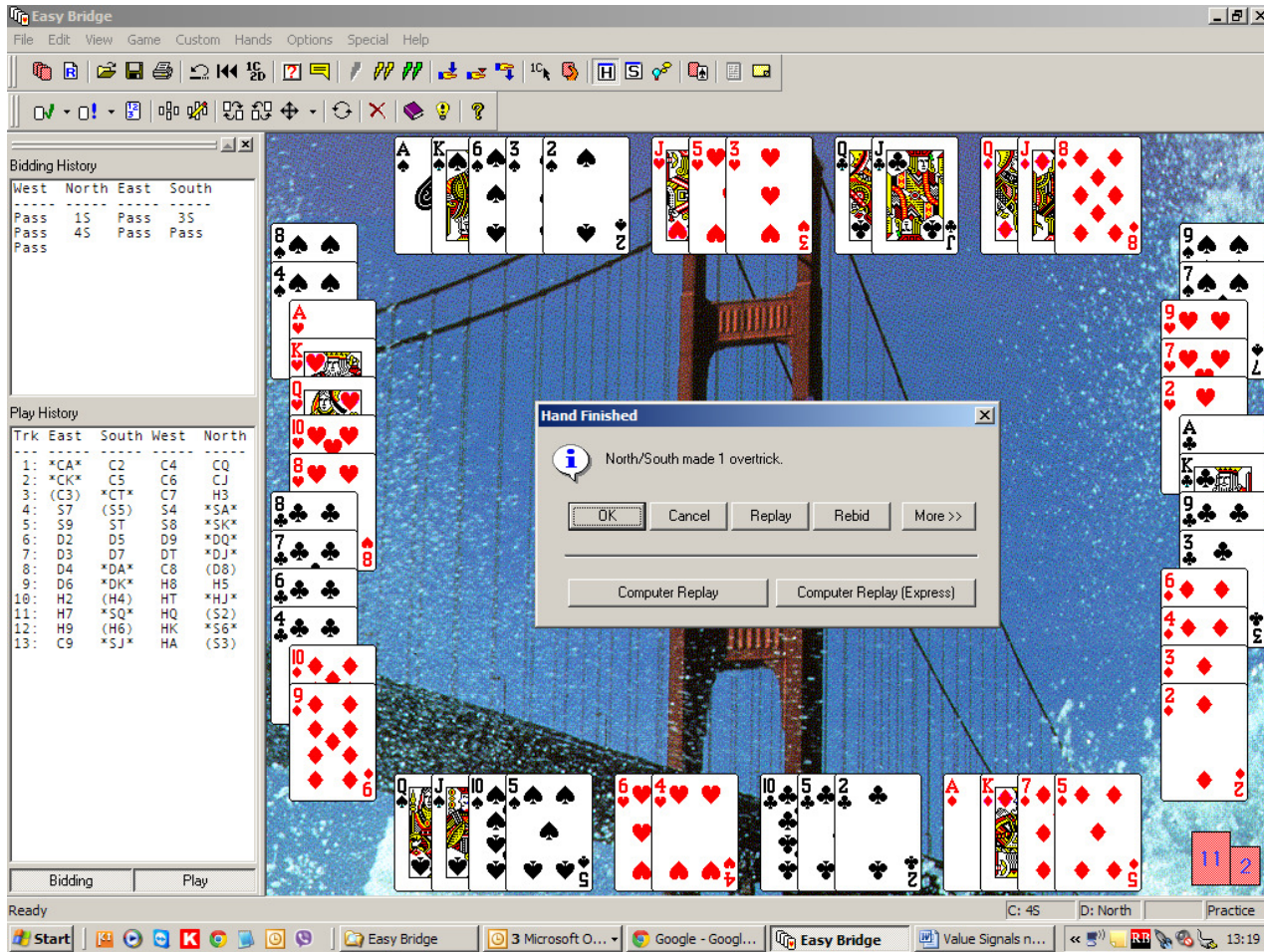
Here is an example of the value of Signalling, especially on the Opening Lead(s).

Bidding:

Pretty much irrelevant. In pairs, three Spades is probably enough (From Me?!?), but in Teams to miss Game is a mortal sin – especially if the opponents are likely to bid it!!

The probable sequence is:

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| North | East | South | West |
| 1S | P | 3S | P |
| 4S | P | P | P |



PLAY:

Nothing wrong with East’s selection of the Club A. The interesting thing is what does West Play? This is where a device like high-low indicating an even number (usually screams doubleton!) is so valuable. If East is watching, he will know that West has either 2 or 4 – if he continues with the K. If he takes it as 2, then another Club is called for... but hold on! This means that North has 4 Clubs, the Q J 7 6. Why did he play Q? No real point in false carding when the 10 is on the table. Furthermore, that’s only 3 tricks. The Heart Ace is required to set the Contract after that. So the clever play is to switch to **a Heart after the first Lead!!** Partner must know you have the Club K, so the play should go: Club A, Heart 2 (low-high showing odd number) to Heart Ace, Heart K (H 7 confirming three) then a “here’s hoping” Club 4. Game down.

I do appreciate that A K clubs followed by a Heart is the same result, but that is hope rather than deduction. Also, without that Heart lead, there’s two Heart discards on the Diamond and the Club 10.

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