

## A Couple of Hands from Last Friday

(Friday mini-lesson – 24 January 2020)

Today I'd like to look at a couple of interesting hands from last week (Friday, 17 January) that a number of people in this room had trouble with.

### Hand #23

*Dlr South*

*Both Vul*

	♠ 8 3 2	
	♥ 7 3	
	♦ 4 2	
♠ 7 4	♣ A 8 7 5 4 2	♠ A K J 5
♥ 6 5 4 2		♥ A K T 8
♦ A K Q 8 5		♦ T 9 6 3
♣ T 6	♠ Q T 9 6	♣ Q
	♥ Q J 9	
	♦ J 7	
	♣ K J 9 3	

Nineteen tables played this hand, and this was the table of results, with all contracts played by E or W:

3NT x 3	down 2, or once making (no ♣ lead, obviously)
2♦ x 3	making 11
3♦ x 2	making 11
4♦ x 1	making 11
5♦ x 4	making 11
2♥ x 2	making 10 or 11
3♥ x 2	making 10 or 11
4♥ x 2	making 10 or 11

What's wrong with this picture? Only two pairs got to the optimal contract of 4♥, and a minority of EW pairs even found their ♥ fit.

I suspect, in most cases, after three passes, E opens 1♦, and now W makes the cardinal error of being too enamoured by the nice ♦s in her hand, responds 2♦, and they end up in some number of ♦s, never finding the nice ♥ suit fit.

Even though it's not a terrific looking ♥ suit, there are four of them, and the initial response should be 1♥. **Always show a major when you have a choice between that and bidding or supporting a minor.**

After a response of 1♥ by W, E should make jump rebid of 3♥, with a nice 17 point hand in support, and now W has an easy time going to game, with a better than minimum hand and a double-fit.

Double fits discovered in the bidding are magic!

### Hand #25

*Dlr North*

*EW Vul*

	♠ A T 8 5 4 3	
	♥ A 7 4 3	
	♦ 2	
♠ J 6 2	♣ A Q	♠ K Q 9 7
♥ Q 5		♥ 8 6
♦ 8 6 5 3		♦ A K Q 9 7
♣ J 8 7 4	♠ -	♣ T 6
	♥ K J T 9 2	
	♦ J T 4	
	♣ K 9 5 3 2	

Again, nineteen tables played this hand, and this was the table of results, with all contracts, except one, played by NS:

3NT x 1	down 2
2♠ x 3	down 2, or making 9
5♦ (EW) x 1	down 3
3♥ x 2	making 10
4♥ x 11	making 10, 11, 12, or 13
5♥ x 1	making 12

The good news is that 12 NS pairs bid their ♥ game and made comfortably, mostly with overtricks.

The EW pair that bid on to 5♦ were brave, and since they didn't get doubled, they got a good match-point result.

I happened to witness one of the tables where NS ended up in 2♠. Here N opened 1♠, E chose not to overcall 2♦ and passed instead, S bid 2♥, and strangely, N ignored the good ♥ fit and just rebid 2♠, all pass.

Here is how I think the bidding should go: 1♠ – 2♦ – X – 3♦ – 3♥ – P – 4♥, all pass. Even though a slam can be made by NS, it's not an obvious bid, since S would likely downgrade her hand with a void in partner's first bid suit.