

Interesting Hands 3

Dir: North
Vul: None

♠ K J 9
♥ 9 8
♦ A K Q J 9 7
♣ A 2

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A K J 6 5
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 9 5

W	NORTH	E
E	1	S
S	SOUTH	T

♠ A Q 10 2
♥ 7 4 3
♦ 10
♣ J 10 6 4 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	0	8	0	0	0
S	0	8	0	0	0
E	8	0	9	9	0
W	8	0	9	9	0

♠ 7 5 4
♥ Q 10 2
♦ 6 5 2
♣ K Q 8 7

There are 2 sides to every story. It was played on 13th Feb (I remember it well!) and the hands were as shown.

Luckily, partner likes the old 'Strong Two' opener, and this hand was perfectly suited for that. So she opened 2♦.

I have some positive values and respond 2NT showing values in the other suits.

Partner bids 3NT rather than 5♦ and from memory I get the lead of ♥A, followed by ♥K and a third ♥.

In with ♥Q, I ran all the ♦'s. East had to keep ♠A,Q and T, so had to throw ♣'s. The 4th ♣ in my hand was the 11th trick. And a joint top. One other pair had done the same.

What I like is that, with such a strong hand, half the N/S failed to bid game. A sure testimony to the value of a Strong Two.

And no-one made 5♦. Everyone in ♦ (some in 2, some 3 or 4 or 5) all made only 9.

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But there is another side to this story, which makes it the HOW. Can you work out what it is?

I shall give the answer next week, but for the sleuths out there, here is a clue.

Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	12	3NT	N	9	400		16	4
10	21	2NT	N	5		150	0	20
9	19	3♦	N	9	110		10	10
8	17	5♦	N	9		100	3	17
7	15	4♦	N	9		50	6	14
6	13	5♦	N	9		100	3	17
5	22	3NT	S	11	460		19	1
4	20	2NT	S	10	180		14	6
3	18	2♦	N	9	110		10	10
16	2	3♦	N	9	110		10	10
14	11	3NT	S	11	460		19	1

The answer is in the scoreboard.

Enjoy. J.