

York 04/11/24 Monday afternoon

**Board 2**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul

	♠ Q 9 8		
	♥ K 9 7 6		
	♦ Q J 10		
	♣ 10 4 2		
♠ 7	N	♠ A 5 3	
♥ Q 5 4 2	W	♥ A 3	
♦ A 7 5 4 2	S	♦ K 9 8 3	
♣ K Q 8	E	♣ A 9 5 3	
		♠ K J 10 6 4 2	
		♥ J 10 8	
		♦ 6	
		♣ J 7 6	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♦	Pass <sup>1</sup>
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Many would overcall 2 ♠ but South was wary of the vulnerability.
2. Checkback Stayman asking for more information.
3. 15-16, no 3 card heart support, and less than 4 spades.

This hand deserved a closer look. At our table, West, not sure of the spade position, chose the game in the known fit. My partner led the ♥ J covered by the ♥ Q, ♥ K and ♥ A, and declarer played well by cashing just the ♦ K before giving up a heart. If declarer plays 2 rounds of trumps before playing the heart, North can win the trick and play another round of trumps to stop a second heart ruff, and the contract would fail if clubs were 4-2. The hand was quickly wrapped up by way of a spade, a heart, 4 diamonds, 3 clubs and 2 heart ruffs.

Ruffing 2 hearts in the hand with shorter trumps, in this case declarers, is a well known technique for increasing the number of trump tricks. But it is not a dummy reversal as some may think. A dummy reversal is when declarer gains extra tricks by ruffing in the hand that began with the longer trumps, so that that hand ends up with shorter trumps. In this hand, ruffing 2 spades in dummy is a dummy reversal. This line of play also succeeds, but only because clubs break 3-3.

One pair played in 3 NT earning a top. I presume declarer held up twice after the ♠ J lead, and when the defence continued spades, declarer chalked up 10 tricks due to the fortuitous lie of the diamonds. The defence can do a little better if South switches to the ♥ J at trick 3. Declarer must duck in dummy and win the trick with the ♥ A. The defence can now hold declarer to 9 tricks if North cashes the ♥ K when in with the ♦ Q.

Interestingly (to me at least!), West can make 6 ♦. Can you see how? Assume North leads the ♦ Q.