|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **21** | **♠K8763 ♥Q8742 ♦7 ♣96** | Dlr: North Vul: N-S | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **♠AT5 ♥J ♦AKQ96 ♣KQ83** | **♠J2 ♥A53 ♦43 ♣AJT752** | |
| |  | | --- | | **♠Q94 ♥KT96 ♦JT852 ♣4** | |

N E S W

P 3♣ P 3♦

P 3♥ P 4N

P 5♥ P 7♣

AP

This is an auction I recommended to a friend at a recent club game. Unfortunately, I can’t profess this is the auction that I had at my table ☹

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **22** | **♠KQJT4 ♥754 ♦Q ♣QJ92** | Dlr: East Vul: E-W | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **♠752 ♥32 ♦AK9876 ♣64** | **♠A98 ♥86 ♦J52 ♣AK875** | | | |  | | --- | | **♠63 ♥AKQJT9 ♦T43 ♣T3** | | |  |

N E S W

1♣ 3♥ AP

Again, a lot to be said for “overbidding” with a good suit. As long as partner is aware, he won’t hang you. I feel compelled to pass regardless of style with the N hand. There just aren’t enough tricks, and no threatening contracts by the opposition to warrant a 4♥bid.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **13** | **♠9643 ♥AK73 ♦K873 ♣3** | Dlr: North Vul: Both | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **♠KT ♥J96542 ♦A4 ♣975** | **♠J875 ♥T ♦Q952 ♣KQJT** | |
| |  | | --- | | **♠AQ2 ♥Q8 ♦JT6 ♣A8642** | |

N E S W

P P 1♣ 2♥

X P 2♠ P

3♠ AP

3♠ goes -2.

Clearly, the auction is in need of critiquing.

Many players would abhor the 2♥ call V/V. The suit is poor, the hand has no shape, the values are defensive. I agree with this analysis. However, I am not completely opposed to 2♥ because preempts like this don’t often get doubled as much as they deserved to be. For most players in the North seat, doubling to show 4♠ is instinctive. Some good players would consider passing, hoping partner can reopen with a double. Even so, few would follow through with this idea.

Once North has a chance to rebid, the best bid is between pass and 2N. 3♠ isn’t an option because it removes the option of playing in 2/3N. This is important considering that South’s 2♠ call is a preference. It doesn’t guarantee 4♠. Ergo, if North invites, 2N keeps this option open. Of course, inviting seems questionable in light of the misfit in ♣, in addition to the fact that the ♥AK won’t likely be supporting any honor in partner’s minimum hand.

It’s important that obstructive bidding is followed through with devastating defense. Otherwise, there is less significant gain when the opponent’s step out of line.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **16** | **♠Q98 ♥K64 ♦842 ♣AT96** | Dlr: West Vul: E-W | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **♠54 ♥QJ952 ♦AKQJT ♣2** | **♠JT732 ♥- ♦7653 ♣QJ74** | |
| |  | | --- | | **♠AK6 ♥AT873 ♦9 ♣K853** | |

I found it a little amusing that virtually nobody found a diamond partial on the given E/W hands. Generally speaking, it pays to respond on light/very light hands that can escape into alternate strains. As a general rule, I set up parameters as follows:

* Mandatory response with 6+HCP
* Respond with 99% of 5HCP hands (pretty much table feel)
* Respond with any hand that can play in two alternative strains
* Respond with any hand that meets the minimum requirement for a game force opposite a 2♣ opener

A 1♠ response is mandatory with the East hand after West’s 1♥ opening. Occasionally you’ll end up a level higher in partner’s six card suit. You can’t win them all…