

Lets try another hand. We will have N/S holding the points again.

N	S
A3	K82
AQ4	K62
AQJ87	K10962
432	K8

Some N/S will have a simple auction such as :-

1D-----3D
3NT

Others, worried about the poor club holding will play in diamonds

1D-----3D
5D

who will do best ? Well in a sense (in a *rubber* sense) 5D is the best game as 11 tricks can be made with your eyes shut. And if the K clubs is well placed 12 tricks will be made. At duplicate 5D= scores [600] and 5D+1 [620].

The 3NT bidders will be very concerned about the prospect of a club lead but lets say (for the moment) that a spade is led.

Now 3NT makes 10 tricks only (not as many as 5D) but scores 630.ie a better score .

And if a club *is* led and the K clubs is well placed 3NT makes 11 and scores 660.

Our "good" bidders always make their contract but those with one eye on the score board who play in NTs will always score better if that contract can be made.

Bob Hamman's rule ex world champion "if 3NT is an option ,bid it "is worth taking seriously.

Sacrifice bidding also has a big part to play in duplicates. And I don't mean the 5C* doubled minus 3 type contracts that one occasionally bids. Much humbler sacrifices are just as worthy at duplicate.This time N/S (who are NON VULNERABLE) are considering "bidding one more"against E/Ws 3H contract

e.g	N	E	S	W
	----	1H	1S	2H
	2S	3H	Pass	Pass
	?			
	Q765			
	87			
	AQ874			
	87			

well would you bid 3Sp? In rubber bridge it is debatable -3Sp looks likely to go off and on a good day 3H might go down anyway. The safe course is to pass and wait for better things. At duplicate 3Sp is automatic. North bids 3Sp knowing :-
i) if 3Sp makes ,thats fantastic ! (and scores 140) ii) if 3Sp goes 2 off (quite likely) that *will* score minus 100 BUT the opponents have been prevented from making 140 themselves in 3H. A pair can go minus two non vulnerable ie minus 100 almost with impunity at duplicate.

Finally -because players will be more inclined to bid one more at duplicate , players should be much freer with their penalty doubles. If our 3Sp bidders above are allowed to get away with their sacrifice they do well -it may be incumbent on E/W above to double to try to salvage some points not to mention self respect.

