

Great (Trick) Expectations: A Bridge Movie*

By
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**A bridge movie is intended to give the reader bidding and play decision as the hand develops.*

One day my regular partner and I were practicing by playing on BBO in a speedball event. IMPs, both vul, you pick up ♠AQJ103 ♥54 ♦J105 ♣Q43. ***What do you think of your hand?***

It easy to love this hand because of the great spade suit. But in fact it is a nine loser hand with flat distribution and soft stuff.

The bidding starts pass on your left, 1♦ by pard and 1♠ overcall. ***What do you bid?***

2NT is an option. You have the equivalent of 10-12 HCPs. And definitely spades stopped. Instead, I chose pass, intending to convert to penalties. We may have a game, but maybe not. I don't see why we can't hold declarer to five tricks or less. +500 is a fine score when game may not make. And you could get more.

It goes pass, double by partner, 2♣ on your right. ***What now?***

You are sad that they are no longer in spades, but the consolation is they are one level higher! The traditional way to show you had a penalty double of 1♠ is to double 2♣. ***What does this double say about your club holding?***

Not a lot. The only inference is that with very short clubs you may choose not to double. However I think double is always the preferred choice. You may sometimes catch the opponents with a big fit, but often partner will be 1-5-3-4 shape. It goes all pass. ***What do you lead against 2♣ doubled?***

The theory on these hands is straight forward. Your side has the majority of high card points and declarer's 2nd suit wrapped up. The only way declarer can generate tricks is by ruffs. Leading trumps at trick one will reduce this ability, and maximize the defence's trick-taking potential. It is a no-brainer: automatic small club lead. ***How many tricks do you expect to take?***

I anticipate taking five tricks as South: four spades and one trick in a minor. Declarer will be playing out of their hand as dummy may have very little, and possibly no entry. **How many tricks did I actually take?**

Well that is a very sad story, I took only one trick! **Which one?**

I took no spades tricks, just the ♣Q! **How many tricks do you think North take?**

I will give you a hint: it is the same number as players on a baseball team!! **What do you think happened to cause this unlikely result?**

I intended to lead the club three. However I was too quick and my cards automatically resorted as it does on BBO when the final contract has been determined. To my horror I had led the spade three!! Here is the full deal:

Contract: 2NT By South Scoring: IMPs Lead: 4♥		♠	K		
		♥	A Q J 8		
		♦	A K Q 8 7		
		♣	9 7 5		
♠	8 2	N W E S		♠	9 7 6 5 4
♥	9 7 3 2			♥	K 10 6
♦	9 6 3 2			♦	4
♣	8 6 2			♣	A K J 10
		♠	A Q J 10 3		
		♥	5 4		
		♦	J 10 5		
		♣	Q 4 3		

No worries! Partner won is stiff king of spades and shifted to a club. Declared finessed and I returned a club. Declarer got out a diamond to my ten and North's queen who returned a third club. Declarer got out the ♥10 and partner won, returning a diamond,

which declarer ruffed with this last trump. Declarer got out the ♥6 and partner claimed the last five tricks! I took only 1 trick, the ♣Q. Brad took 9 tricks!! If you had said that I would only take one trick with this hand I would not believe. You never know in this game...