

Bridge

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Do you ever have those moments at the bridge table which cause you to take a deep breath, blink hard and say to yourself (probably silently) ‘I really am a genius’?

Such an occasion happened to me last week playing a London League match at the Acol Club. I held a 4-0-7-2 weakish hand, and first to speak at favourable I made the momentous decision to . . . pass! The opps ended up in an innocent 3NT, I led the \spadesuit K and we took it three off vulnerable for a meaty 300. I nearly died of love for myself.

The infatuation didn’t last long:

Dealer West North/South vulnerable

		\spadesuit K 10										
		\heartsuit A K J 4										
		\diamondsuit 10 8 4										
		\clubsuit K 9 5 4										
\spadesuit A J 9 7 5 2	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		\spadesuit 8 4	
		N										
W			E									
		S										
\heartsuit 9 5	\heartsuit 7 3											
\diamondsuit Q 3	\diamondsuit K J 9 7 5 2											
\clubsuit J 8 3	\clubsuit A 7 6											
		\spadesuit Q 6 3										
		\heartsuit Q 10 8 6 2										
		\diamondsuit A 6										
		\clubsuit Q 10 2										

West	North	East	South
2 \spadesuit	X	Pass	4 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West kicked off with a trump. I drew two rounds and decided to leave Clubs alone for the time being because a genius gets a count on the hand if she can.

When I worked out that Clubs had to be 3-3, I flipped a mental coin and got them wrong, but really felt I had given the hand my all, until I spotted the dreaded raising of my partner’s left eyebrow.

‘Could I have done better?’ I asked, more in hope than expectation. ‘Perhaps you should have finessed the \spadesuit 10,’ he replied, a tad sarcastically. ‘Don’t be stupid,’ I retorted. ‘That gives me a discard from dummy, but dummy had *four* Clubs, so I still have to guess them.’

‘Think about it, Garozzo,’ he mortally fired back — so I did — and felt sick.

When the \spadesuit 10 holds, as it’s favourite to do on the bidding, I can play another Spade, knocking out the Ace. I then win the Diamond shift and discard a *Diamond* on the good Spade, exit with the diamond and sit back while the defence has to play the Club suit for me.

I really am an idiot sometimes.