

TALES OF AKARANA

Interference and getting to slam

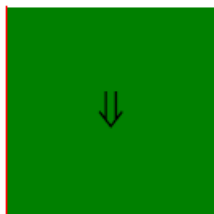
24hcp between the two hands, but an eleven card heart fit, two pairs from fourteen tables managed to bid to 6♥ on [Board 3](#).

Round: 9
 Board: 3
 Dealer: S
 Vul: E-W

| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|
| N | - | <u>1</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>5</u> | - |
| S | - | <u>1</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>5</u> | - |
| E | <u>2</u> | - | - | - | - |
| W | <u>2</u> | - | - | - | - |

♠9872
 ♥AKQ753
 ♦Q
 ♣54

♠T
 ♥4
 ♦T53
 ♣AKJ98632



♠KQ64
 ♥2
 ♦J8742
 ♣QT7

11
 8 HCP 8
 13

♠AJ53
 ♥JT986
 ♦AK96
 ♣

Most if not all pairs caught a big pre-empt from West over the 1♥ opening bid.

Now the spotlight turns to the Norths to evaluate the value of their hand. At the table I watched there was a 3♣ bid and North chose to raise to 4♥. That seems like a good practical bid, but if you have 4♦ available as a splinter I think that is a better option. After all your partner is unlikely to go crazy given the poor quality of trumps for the opening bid.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | 1♥ |
| 3♣ | 4♦ | 5♣ | ? |

Many Easts were brave enough to venture 5♣ and it looks like when they did almost half the N/S pairs went on to 5♥. But the vulnerability was against them and one got doubled losing 800.

2 pairs reached the good slam. Well done.

The only interest in the play is that with the usual ♣ lead, declarer can reverse the dummy ruffing clubs, and end by squeezing East in spades and diamonds. Malcolm Mayer made no mistakes in the play scoring 13 tricks as described above.

How would you have bid, and would you spot the squeeze?

Mark Hangartner