

Almost perfect bidding.

Round: [5](#)

Board: **8**

Dealer: **W**

Vul: **None**

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-
S	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-
E	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	-	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
W	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	-	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

	♠	Q	J			
	♥	K	Q	J	T	
	♦	Q	6	3	2	
	♣	9	7	5		
♠	K	5	3			
♥	8	5	3	2		
♦	A	T	8	5		
♣	A	T				
					11	
	♠	T	9	8	4	
	♥	A	9	7	6	4
	♦	J	9			
	♣	8	4			
						5

This sort of bidding disaster could happen to anyone. Your partner opens a club with the West hand, and you have complicated series of bids including exclusion Blackwood to establish that you have no top losers. Sadly there were too many bottom losers and 6♣ was doomed.

How did the rest of the field fare? 5 times at 11 tables the contract was 3NT by West. Each time North lead K♥. You may imagine the contract went -1 rather swiftly. Not so at 3 of those tables. Perhaps South erred early on by overtaking and playing a heart back. Perhaps South failed to encourage a continuation. It is hard to imagine a profitable switch. In most auctions the failure to open 1♥ by West would give away the heart suit layout, and encourage North to hope for his partner's known 5 card suit to set the contract.

Whatever the case the intrepid slam bidders were disappointed not to see more minus scores from the 3NT bidders joining theirs.

Mark Hangartner