

## Victim, Idiot, or What ??

One day, playing bridge on the internet, I had the misfortune to be the dummy for the following two hands. Now the question is.....was I a victim of circumstances, an idiot for playing with either or both of these partners, just plain unlucky, or should I have some empathy for my partners?

On Hand 1, I could easily have solved any play problems by simply bidding more....6♦ in this case as it would have restricted partner's line of play. But, alas, partner was only in a pedestrian 5♦.

Hand 1: Dealer: South      Vul: Both    IMPS

<u>West</u>	<u>East (Me)</u>
♠ 953	♠ A
♥ A	♥ Q10532
♦ A10862	♦ QJ954
♣ KQJ5	♣ 102

Bidding:

South	West	North	East	Opening lead: Queen of ♠'s
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥	
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♦	
3♠	4♦	Pass	5♦	
all pass				

My partner in 5♦ managed to go down only 1! North led the Queen of spades and at trick 2 my partner played a diamond to the Ace (North showing out), ruffed a spade and led another diamond. South won the King, led a club to partner's Ace and got a ruff. Nice huh? Down one for -12 imps.

And now for the same recurring theme.....but with a different partner....you don't think I'd play more boards with the above partner, do you?

Hand 2: Dealer: South Vul: Both IMPS

<u>West (my partner)</u>	<u>East (Me)</u>
♠ K	♠ 953
♥ Q987532	♥ AJ4
♦ Q8	♦ AJ762
♣ AJ8	♣ Q9

Bidding:

South	West	North	East	Opening lead:
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Queen of ♠'s
Dbf	2♥	2♠	4♥	
4♠	5♥	all pass		

South won the Ace of spades and returned the two which partner ruffed. He then led the Queen of heart, ten, small, King. South now led the ten of spades which declarer ruffed. He then led the Queen of diamonds, (covered with King), then the Jack of diamonds which got ruffed for down 1 and -12 imps again.

Now I suggest that the morals to these two stories are:

- (1) Beware of playing with idiots who know how to lose two trump tricks missing only the Kxx.
- (2) Beware when the Queen of spades is led.
- (3) Beware when one of you holds the 953 of spades.

I couldn't wait to share these two stories with a friend of mine and his comments were priceless. While we both had some empathy for each of my partners, he agreed with all three morals and in particular the "idiots" part, but added that I was the biggest idiot of all for not sitting West!!!!

Note: These were actual hands, card for card, played on the same day by people who usually know how to play!

Marilyn Hemenway 2004