

Several years ago, I read in a bridge magazine that many players severely undervalue big distributional hands

When you have a wild shape, you must move away from counting points and look at losers. In this case, 'quick tricks' – Aces and Kings are most valuable

Dealer South, All Vul

How do you bid the hand below, after Partner, sitting South opens 2H (a simple weak 2 bid, showing 6 Hearts and 6 - 11 Points)?

Assessing Partner's Bid

You are Vulnerable, so Partner's bid should be a bit stronger, including at least 1 high honour in Hearts, and good intermediate cards (10,9,8 and 7)

West passes

Your Hand

You hold this distributional powerhouse:

A1087642
A98754
-
-

How do you bid?

It is easy to do what most players do – they can only see 8 Points with the 2 Aces plus they add a bit for the voids, so they simply bid 4H

Given the Distributional Powerhouse you hold, you should be aiming higher

Hearts

It is best to start your analysis by looking at Hearts. Partner promises 6 of them, so if Partner is missing HK, it will not matter – you have 12 Hearts between you, so your HA will bring down HK

Spades

You turn to Spades. You hold 7 of them, with 6 missing: K, Q, J, 9, 5, and 3

Unless you get a very bad break in Spades, or a Spade is led and ruffed with the 1 missing Trump, you are very likely to make 6 Hearts

If Partner has any of these Spade combinations, you will make 6H:

K
Kx
Kxx
Kxxx
Kxxxx
Q
QJ
Qx
Qxx (where SK is singleton with a Defender, or Doubleton with East)

Qxx (where SK, SJ and Sx are all with East)
Qxxx
QJxxx
J
Jx
Jxx (where SK or SQ are singleton, or SK and SQ are
together, with a Defender)
Jxxx

[Note, most partnerships agree that you should not bid a weak 2 if you also hold 4 or more cards in a major suit, so North is unlikely to have 4 or 5 Spades as well as 6 Hearts]

When you analyse it, the above cover most combinations. Only an unlucky ruff if a Spade is led, or West having SK, SJ and Sx will defeat you

So, bid 6H straight away

MORAL OF THE STORY

Distributional Hands are powerhouses, and after looking at the odds, you are best to bid high. Here 6H is a standout option. It should make

[With the right Spades, 7H could make, but it is very hard to find out what Spades partner might have, so 6H is enough]

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Bridge lover

28 April 2023