03 - 2023 - 2NT for Minors

Dealer East - Nil Vul

642 AQ74 73 KQ65 QJ97 K10853 653 J1082 J1092 A8 94 A10 A K9 KQ654

J8732

The Bidding

East opens the bidding with 1S

You are South. You have 13 Points, and in my view a very good 2NT bid, showing some points and both minors. So, you bid it

West bids 3S (West has not got much, but 4 spade cards and the Diamond suit give his hand some values, and EW are Not Vul)

North bids 4C. That shows good values and good Clubs – bidding at the 4 level requires this, or a very shapely hand

East Passes

Do you now Pass or bid 5C?

In my view, you should bid 5C. You expect East to have about 12 Points, your Partner the same, and you have 13. West has the rest - about 3 Points. Most importantly, you sit over East with your HK and DK and DQ if East has HA and/or DA

So you bid 5C, and that is the end of the bidding

Plan the play (note North is Declarer)

East leads HJ

Firstly, count your winners

You have 1S, 3H, 1D and 4C = 9. You need to find 2 more

Secondly, where can you find them?

It is quite simple – as you draw trumps, you end in Hand (North) and lead towards DK and later DQ. You ruff a Diamond in Hand. Thus, you easily make 5C

Moral of the Story

2NT to show minors is a useful bidding tool.

Some also play it to mean the lowest 2 unbid suits. So, if East bids 1D, then 2NT is both Hearts and Clubs

Ian Morison Bridge lover 26 Jan 2023