

30- 2023 – Trump Con Job

This Hand came up this week, and the Club's serial con artist flourished:

Dealer S, all Vul

J10985
63
K862
97

K2
KQ1082
Q95
853

A
A9754
J10743
Q2

Q7643
J
A
AKJ1064

BIDDING

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1C	1H	P	3H (1)
3S (2)	4H	P	P
5C (3)	P	5S (4)	P
P	P		

- (1) I would have bid 4H – too strong for just 3H
- (2) Showing a strong 2-Suit Hand
- (3) Showing an even stronger 2 – suit hand, asking partner to pick
- (4) Partner selects Spades

THE PLAY

West led HK and Declarer shrivelled up. The Heart is a loser, and so are SA and SK, down 1

Declarer plotted – is there any hope? Not looking good - SA and SK are the 2 top trumps, and the Heart lead will be lost – 3 tricks. He muttered obscenities in various obscure languages, to the defenders he sounded like a babbling fool

He played H3, East played H4 and Declarer threw HJ

West led another top Heart, Declarer ruffed in Hand

Then Declarer saw his only chance – if the SA and SK are split, and they both are played at once, then 2 losers will become 1 [The Con Job foments....]

He played SQ from hand [the Con Job trap is laid]. West agonised for an eternity, and then some more, and then played SK in a triumphant but resigned fashion (fearing it might not turn out well, but not knowing why). West beat SK by playing SA and it was all over [The Con Job succeeds!]

Two losers, SA and SK had become 1 loser. 11 Tricks and game made

A Con Job parfait by Declarer!

MORAL OF THE STORY

As said last week, in life you should be a decent citizen, upright and caring

But in Bridge? The Con Job has many faces! It lurks in every corner.... any card play can mask a sinister plot

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

29 Sept 2023

POSTSCRIPT

West should play low over SQ, asking himself – if South has SA, why did he not play it instead of SQ?
Do not rise with SK

Equally, if West had SA and S2, he should wait – it does no harm to see if East has SK single, and no matter what transpires, SA (the Ace of Trumps!) must win at some stage

East did ask the Director if the rules provided that an extra trick is accrued if both SA and SK win the same trick at the same time. Nice try, said the Director