

WORDS OF WISDOM

... by Bill Wisdom

My partner made a very exuberant bid on the following hand:

♠ Q 10 9
♥ --
♦ A K J 9
♣ A K Q 9 8 2

After three passes, he opened 1♣. The next hand overcalled 1♥. I held

♠ A K 8 5 3
♥ J 10 9 8 5 3
♦ --
♣ 10 6

and decided to bid 1♠ (promising 5 or more). He bid 5NT, requesting I bid 6 with one of the top three spade honors and 7 with two of the top three honors. I dutifully bid 7♠. Now, how do I make it?

Through sloppy play, I went down two. I got a heart lead and trumped it. I played Q♠ and a spade to my hand, both opponents following. On the A♠, my LHO pitched a diamond. I threw a diamond from the board and RHO followed with the J♠.

When I led the 10♣ to the Ace, RHO followed with the 7♣. I played A, K♦, throwing two hearts and ruffed a diamond, all following. A club to the K and RHO showed out ... down two for 10%. No one made 7.

If I had won the first trick in dummy and ruffed a diamond, I would have a good idea how to make it; because, when I now draw trumps, pitching a club on the third spade, I can now lead a club (10) to the Ace and play A, K♦ and ruff the last diamond. At that point, I will know my RHO had three spades, five hearts (likely because he overcalled 1♥) and four diamonds. So the 7♣ (already played) rated to be a singleton. I lead a club to the 9 and claim. The full hand is below.

Dummy

♠ Q 10 9
♥ --
♦ A K J 9
♣ A K Q 9 8 2

LHO

♠ 7 4
♥ 6 2
♦ Q 10 4 3 2
♣ J 5 3 2

RHO

♠ J 6 2
♥ A K Q 7 4
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ 7

Declarer

♠ A K 8 5 3
♥ J 10 9 8 5 3
♦ --
♣ 10 6