

September, 2019 Hand of the Month

Dir: E	
Vul: NS	AQ872
	43
8	Q742
16 12	63
4	
10	KJ63
KQ76	A109
AK986	J1053
A108	K5
	954
	J852

	QJ9742

At the Fairlawn Game on September 17 hand # 2 created a problem for many East/West players. The maximum contract of 3NT was reached only 3 times. Here is a sample auction and description:

1D - P - 1H - P
1S - P - 2C - P
2H - P - 3D - P
3NT All Pass

The West Hand has reason to be interested in a possible Diamond slam, but when East bids 1S, this shows "wasted values" to West. But still West can advertise the good hand by bidding "4th suit forcing". East admits 3 card heart support and West can now bid 3D (which is game force since fourth suit forcing was used). East then can bid 3NT, saying let's stop here.

It is very important for East to make the 1S bid since in many cases partner will have a spade fit with you. Always be sure to advertise the Majors when you can.