

ACBL - BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

Marty's gem - Jan 31 2011

Back in the days when he was playing a lot of tournaments, Marty Bergen was a regular winner. When he offers a deal and says, "I finally played a hand really well," you can be sure it's worth a look. This one took place at the 2004 Fall NABC in Orlando

Dealer West Vul :E-W	NORTH ♠10862 ♥K873 ♦7 ♣K972	
WEST		EAST
	SOUTH ♠A3 ♥942 ♦QJ1065 ♣AJ10	

North	East	South	West
			1 Club
Pass	1 Diamond	2 Diamond	All Pass

The 2♦ was natural - but this is about play, not bidding. For better or worse, you have landed in a 5-1 fit. The scoring is matchpoints, so consider your play when West starts with the ♥5.

Solution

Bergen's first test came on the opening lead. After a good deal of agonizing, he called for the king, which won! He next played a diamond to the jack, losing to the ace. West cashed the ♥A and ♥J, and led the ♠7 to the 8, king and ace. Watch those spots carefully!

The ♦Q drove out the king, and East returned the ♠4 to the 3, queen and 2. West came back with the ♠9, 10, jack, ruff. Now the ♠6 was good, and so was the ♥8.

Bergen went to the dummy with the ♣K and led the ♥7. East ruffed as Bergen got rid of the ♣J. East was forced to lead his ♠4, and Bergen discarded his ♠A, winning with the ♠6 in dummy.

With two tricks to go, Bergen was in dummy. East had the ♦8 3, Bergen the ♦10 6. The trump coup enabled Bergen to go down only one trick, which was worth 9 on a 12 top - most East-West pairs were making plus 90 in 1NT.

The full deal:

	NORTH ♠ 10862 ♥ K873 ♦ 7 ♣ K972	
WEST ♠ Q97 ♥ AJ65 ♦ A4 ♣ Q543		EAST ♠ KJ54 ♥ Q10 ♦ K9832 ♣ 86
	SOUTH ♠ A3 ♥ 942 ♦ QJ1065 ♣ AJ10	