

At the Tolle, I was telling Mike Robinson that I hadn't psyched for over 20 years. Mike encouraged me most strongly to find an opportunity and try one as soon as possible. Nothing came up at the Tolle, but in a last 16 match of the HPB (which we lost comfortably!), I picked up the following collection.

J5
AQJ87
K3
9853

At love all, Stephen Brown opened 2H (Benjy) with X by RHO. Instead of bidding the obvious 4H, I decided to muddy the waters by bidding 2S. This in quick order was followed by pass - 4S - pass and back to me!

After some thought and bearing in mind the aggregate scoring used in the HPB, I decided to pass and accept say 6 off undoubled, or remove to 5H if doubled. LHO passed without great thought and then led S4. Stephen tabled the following with an apology that with teammates Marian and Nick, he played 2H as showing opening values and a 4-4-4-1 shape and had forgotten we were playing Benjy. The changing partners format of this competition had struck again!

AQ32
K652
JT76
A

J5
AQJ87
K3
9853

Our opponents, having played faultless bridge to date, were totally phased by our bidding (not surprisingly) and then proceeded to help generously, whereas any trump force or hold up would lead to inevitable defeat.

I played low and East won with SK (mistake), cashed DA (mistake) and continued with a small D. I now cashed SJ, crossed to HK, cleared trumps (4-3) and played DJ and claimed 10 tricks.

The full hand was:

AQ32

K652

JT76

A

T984

93

Q954

T64

K76

T4

A82

KQJ72

J5

AQJ87

K3

9853