

2 May

Hamman revisited – again!

Rakesh Kumar

With both sides vulnerable, you hold this miserable collection as dealer:

♠87532
♥Q932
♦
♣QJ64

You pass, of course, as does your left-hand opponent. Partner opens a strong 2C. You bid 2D, waiting. Your worst fears are realised when partner rebids 3D, showing a game-forcing hand with a 6+ diamond suit. You develop a headache ...

There's little or no chance that partner has 4-card support for hearts. She might have good 3-card support for spades, but if you bid 3S at this point partner is likely to assume you have something better than the apology for a suit that you hold – in which case she might get altogether too excited. What's left?

I have twice written columns for the SHBC website about what is often referred to as Hamman's Law, named after legendary American bridge pro Bob Hamman: "if you have a choice of reasonable bids and one of them is 3NT, then bid it". In fact this was a good time to apply it, because the full deal proved to be:

BD: 10	♠	Dlr: E
	♥KJT854	Vul: ALL
	♦8654	
	♣T97	
♠AQJ		♠87532
♥A7		♥Q932
♦AKQJT93		♦
♣K		♣QJ64
	♠KT964	
	♥6	
	♦72	
	♣A8532	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	N
		T
N		4
S		24 5
E	3 2 4 5	7
W	4 2 4 5	

The West hand has 9 top tricks and a tenth trick is guaranteed on any lead, with excellent chances for an eleventh. Even if you could stop in 4S, it's very hard work on the 5-0 break in trumps, while game in diamonds is out of the question.

Sure, it takes courage to bid 3NT on two queens, a jack and a void in partner's suit, but it isn't crazy. Partner should be worth at least 5 (more likely 6) tricks in diamonds irrespective of your holding and should have at least another two tricks outside. With luck, one of your minor honours will fit with partner's hand and be worth a trick. And yes, the smallest number of tricks to make a game is nine ... in notrumps.

When this deal turned up on Wednesday 1 May, it was both interesting and pleasing to see that two pairs just out of Lynleigh Evans' classes for beginners, who were making their first sally into competitive duplicate bridge, managed to play in 3NT. The rest of the field – more experienced – did not! Full credit to Patsy Bingham & Steven Blake, as well as to Pam & Barry Dalby.

Contract	Result	Score	Frequency
6♠X by EW	-2	500	1
5♦ by EW	-3	300	1
6♣ by EW	-3	300	1
4♦ by EW	-1	100	1
3NT by EW	+1	-630	1
3NT by EW	+2	-660	1



14 May

Running a long suit

Rakesh Kumar

Several past columns have focused on the value of a long suit as a source of tricks, especially a long minor suit in a notrump contract. Another way in which long suits can play a part in generating extra tricks is via exerting pressure on the defenders as trick after trick is cashed. Sometimes this leads to an erroneous discard which earns declarer an undeserved trick. Sometimes, however, it can create a situation from which there really is no escape.

An example of the latter arose on Monday 13 May. As dealer, North opened 1C (2+) with the hand shown on the following page. At our table, South raised to 5C, which might have been a bit optimistic. Now that North was in it, what could she do on the lead of ♥J?

♠AT74
 ♥KQ97
 ♦KJ2
 ♣T4

 ♠Q8
 ♥
 ♦T765
 ♣AK98752

Declarer obviously needs a bit of luck. If trumps break 2-2 and ♦AQ are both with West, it will be possible to make by playing a top heart from dummy and discarding a losing spade from hand. Finding the diamond honours in the right place is the crucial first step, so after ruffing the opening lead, declarer might choose to play a small diamond to the jack. When this holds, there is hope!

Back to dummy with a trump to the ace, but East follows with the queen and then shows out on ♣K. Is declarer doomed now? It seems like there must be 3 tricks to lose no matter what – a trump, ♦A and either ♥A or ♠K.

Oh well, time to play another diamond. West takes ace, cashes ♣J and exits with ♦Q to the king. Diamonds break 3-3 which helps.

Now although this didn't actually happen at the table, see what might have occurred if declarer had cashed the thirteenth diamond and then played off all of South's trumps. As the cards lie, after 10 tricks the position will be:

	♠AT	
	♥K	
	♦	
	♣	
♠K6		♠
♥A		♥immaterial
♦		♦
♣		♣
	♠Q8	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣5	

When ♣5 is led from the South hand, what is West to do? If he discards ♥A, declarer throws ♠10 and win the last two tricks in hand. But if he keeps ♥A, declarer discards the useless ♥K – now ♠A drops the king and ♠Q wins the last trick!

Of course declarer doesn't know where all the cards are, but playing West for the crucial cards is the only way that the contract can make. This is actually a so-called simple squeeze with a split two-card menace in spades. Here is the full deal:

BD: 5	♠AT74	Dir: N
	♥KQ97	Vul: NS
	♦KJ2	
	♣T4	
♠K65		♠J932
♥A862		♥JT543
♦AQ4		♦983
♣J63		♣Q
	♠Q8	
	♥	
	♦T765	
	♣AK98752	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	N
		T
N	5 3 2 3	13
S	5 3 2 3	14 4
E		9
W	1	

Even if you don't know anything about squeezes (and don't want to know) the general approach of "run your long suit, keep possible winners and throw obvious losers" can sometimes make amazing things happen!



23 May

Unexpected defence

Rakesh Kumar

Defence is full of possibilities, often unrealised. Consider this scenario. You hold:

♠8542
♥6
♦AT6
♣T7643

LHO is the dealer and passes. Partner opens 1D, RHO doubles and after you pass, LHO bids 1H. Partner jumps to 3D and RHO also jumps, to 4S! Everyone passes. You decide that it might be worth looking for a ruff or two and lead ♥6.

Partner wins the ace, but instead of returning a heart for you to ruff, she cashes ♣A. Now she plays back ♥2. What is going on? Why didn't partner give you the heart ruff straight away, with a suit-preference low heart to show you where her entry was so that you could return a club and she could give you another ruff? She couldn't be trying to tell you she had ♣AK because with that holding she would have cashed ♣K, not the ace.

This kind of unexpected defence should be a "wake up" call – it is sometimes referred to as an "alarm clock" signal – and is an attempt to alert partner to the existence of some abnormal situation, or a request to make some abnormal play.

Partner was absolutely right to do what she did, because if I had woken up, I would have given her a club ruff and then received another heart ruff. The full deal, from Wednesday 22 May, is below. Properly defended, 4S is two down.

Unfortunately I was, once again, more or less asleep. I was sure partner couldn't have more than one spade and didn't believe she could have a hand with two singletons. So I tried to cash ♦A and declarer promptly made his contract!

BD: 17	♠J7	Dlr: N	
	♥QJT75	Vul: None	
	♦J84		
	♣952		
♠8542		♠9	
♥6		♥A832	
♦AT6		♦KQ97532	
♣T7643		♣A	
	♠AKQT63		
	♥K94		
	♦		
	♣KQJ8		
	♣♦♥♠	N	
		T	
N	2	2 2	5
S	2	2 2	4 13
E	5	1	18
W	5	1	

Full credit to Lynleigh Evans for finding the "alarm clock" signal! Creative defence like this wins tops and earns large swings at IMPs – this is an example that's worthy of your attention. However, you need to try to get partner on your wavelength, otherwise your brilliance will be wasted ...



11 June

An instructive deal

Rakesh Kumar

Over the June long weekend I competed – with minimal success – in the Victor Champion Cup Open Teams event in Melbourne. There were of course many, many challenging and thought-provoking deals among the 140 that were played over two and a half days. I thought this one was particularly instructive with respect to thinking at defence.

The opponents are vulnerable and you are not. Partner passes as dealer, RHO opens 1D and LHO jumps to 3NT. Partner leads ♥5 and this is what you see:

(dummy)	
♠AKJ8	
♥T	
♦AT98	
♣5432	(you)
	♠Q64
	♥AQ6
	♦K42
	♣J876

What do you know and what can you work out?

Firstly, it's pretty obvious that you have most of the partnership's high card assets: LHO has 13-15 hcp for the jump to 3NT so partner can have at most 3 hcp and may have just 1 hcp.

Secondly, the lead appears to be fourth highest from length. By jumping to 3NT, declarer has denied possession of 4 hearts so partner has at least a 6-card suit!

Thirdly, you will win a trick with ♦K at some point later in the play.

Now that you know all of that, how will you defend?

If you rise with ♥A and continue with the queen then if declarer holds ♥K and two small cards she/he can duck once, take the third heart and as the cards lie, partner will never get in to cash her winners. That means declarer will surely make 3NT.

However, it's important to realise that while you know where all the hcp are, declarer doesn't have this information. If instead of the ace you play the *queen* of hearts at trick one, declarer cannot afford to duck, because ♥AJ may be with the opening leader and then the contract will promptly go down on a heart continuation.

After declarer wins ♥K, when you come in with ♦K you can simply cash the ace of hearts and return another heart – the contract is then defeated by two tricks.

This was the full deal (Match 8 Board 25) in which declarer was actually West:

BD: 25		♠T75		Dlr: N	
		♥J98532		Vul: EW	
		♦65			
		♣T9			
♠932				♠AKJ8	
♥K74				♥T	
♦QJ73				♦AT98	
♣AKQ				♣5432	
		♠Q64			
		♥AQ6			
		♦K42			
		♣J876			
				N	
		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠		T	
N	1			1	
S	1			15	12
E	4	4	4	3	12
W	4	4	4	3	

Bridge Solver knows how the hearts lie so will duck even if South plays ♥Q at trick one. However, a human declarer won't do that.

In fact playing the queen in a situation such as this is a "textbook" defensive position, but clearly many competing in the event did not know this or didn't apply it at the time: across the field, 25 defeated 3NT but 38 did not.

Something to remember when you have a similar holding in the future ...



4 July

Awkward strong hands

Rakesh Kumar

You are vulnerable against opponents who are not vulnerable and are looking at this:

♠ **A K Q 10**
 ♥ **A**
 ♦ **K Q**
 ♣ **A 10 9 5 3 2**

Partner passes as dealer and so does RHO. What will you bid?

Hands like this are a pain. This is a powerful 3-loser hand, which might make you think about opening a strong 2C, but its 6-card suit is wimpy and in any case partner may have 4-card spade support, in which case you want to be in 4S. You really can't have a sensible auction to discover your best spot if you open 2C – there is not enough bidding room. Indeed most bridge authorities recommend against opening 2C with 5+4 hands including a 4-card major, or with 4441 hands.

So what can you do with a hand such as this one? There isn't an absolutely "correct" answer but the usual suggestion is to open 1C, hoping that the auction doesn't die. That might work out nicely if the full deal looks like this:

Optimum:
NS 4S+1; +650
 LoTT: 18-20 = -2

♠ **9 8 6 5**
 ♥ **10 8**
 ♦ **J 8 7**
 ♣ **Q J 8 7**

Bridge Solver Online:
 John Goacher
 Double Dummy Solver Module:
 Bo Haglund

♠ **J 7 4**
 ♥ **K Q 6 4 3**
 ♦ **9 6 2**
 ♣ **K 4**

21

♠ **3 2**
 ♥ **J 9 7 5 2**
 ♦ **A 10 5 4 3**
 ♣ **6**

4
 9 5
 22

♠ **A K Q 10**
 ♥ **A**
 ♦ **K Q**
 ♣ **A 10 9 5 3 2**

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	-	-	5	1
S	5	-	-	5	1
E	-	1	1	-	-
W	-	1	1	-	-

LHO will overcall 1H, partner will pass, RHO will raise to at least 3H and you will double for takeout, implying a strong hand with spades. You will then wind up in 4S and all will be well.

The story may not have a happy ending, however, if the full deal looks like this:

Optimum:
NS 4S+1; +650
LoTT: 18-20 = -2

Bridge Solver Online:
John Goacher
Double Dummy Solver Module:
Bo Haglund

♠ J 7 4 ♥ K Q 6 4 ♦ 9 6 4 2 ♣ K 4	♠ 9 8 6 5 ♥ 10 8 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ Q J 8 7	♠ 3 2 ♥ J 9 7 5 3 2 ♦ A 10 5 3 ♣ 6																														
9 4 5 22	♠ A K Q 10 ♥ A ♦ K Q ♣ A 10 9 5 3 2	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	-	5	1	S	5	-	-	5	1	E	-	1	1	-	-	W	-	1	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	5	-	-	5	1																											
S	5	-	-	5	1																											
E	-	1	1	-	-																											
W	-	1	1	-	-																											

Now unless East chooses to start with a (borderline) weak 2H, South's opening of 1C may well be passed out. This is the reason some folks play strong club systems (like Precision) or other forcing club systems. Of course those have their drawbacks too.

The actual deal featuring this hand turned up on Monday 1 July and was one of those "deals of doom" where no sensibly-bid game can be made on best defence:

Optimum:
EW 5Hx, EW 5Dx; +300
LoTT: 20-20 = 0

Bridge Solver Online:
John Goacher
Double Dummy Solver Module:
Bo Haglund

♠ J 7 4 3 2 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ K 4	♠ 9 8 6 5 ♥ 10 8 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ Q J 8 7	♠ ♥ J 9 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ A 10 5 4 3 ♣ 6																														
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	5	-	-	3	-																											
S	4	-	-	3	-																											
E	-	3	3	-	-																											
W	-	3	3	-	-																											

At favourable vulnerability, East should open 3H, South should double and West should raise to 4H. North is likely to pass, in which case South should double again in the passout seat and now North will bid 4S. After that anything might happen ...

In fact quite a lot did happen, as this deal produced a remarkable range of scores. There were a couple of +600s for North-South, making 5C without a spade opening lead; a +420 for East-West, somehow making 4H; a couple of +50 and +100 scores for North-South when they defended; as well as a few +100 to +300 scores for East-West when their opponents went down in 4S or a very optimistic 3NT. And then there was the "postcode" score of 2800 when North-South went down quite a few tricks in in 5S redoubled ... in case you're wondering, that's Orange!



9 July

Avoiding finesses

Rakesh Kumar

Some folks can't resist a finesse. Of course there are many occasions when a finesse is the only way to gain an extra trick, but good players will always look for alternative lines of play that don't involve having to take a finesse. This deal, from Monday 8 July, is an object lesson in avoiding finesses. You are in 4H after this auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1S	2D	2H
P	3C	P	4H

♠AQJT9
♥5
♦8653
♣A63

♠3
♥AKJ7643
♦
♣QJ852

Partner found an interesting 3C rebid! Anyway, you ruff LHO's ♦J lead. Two rounds of hearts drop LHO's queen so you draw the last trump with the jack, discarding diamonds from dummy. Now what?

You can, if you wish, try finesses in both spades and clubs, although the latter is a poor option when missing ♣10. However, even though both finesses work, you will end up with 2 club losers, because as you can see from the full deal below – now in its correct orientation – North has all the missing clubs:

BD: 29 ♠K652 **Dlr: N**
♥QT **Vul: ALL**
♦J7
♣KT974

♠3 ♠AQJT9
♥AKJ7643 ♥5
♦ ♦8653
♣QJ852 ♣A63

♠874
♥982
♦AKQT942
♣

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N	T
N	1					9
S	1				11	11
E	4	6	2			9
W	4	5	2			

But why not try a better line? All you have to do is play a spade to the ace, then play ♠Q. If South holds this card, you can ruff, then you might try the club finesse – if it works, you discard all your losing clubs on the high spades and make 13 tricks! If, as is actually the case, South doesn't hold ♠K, you simply discard a low club, conceding a trick. Subsequently, you cross to dummy with ♣A to discard your remaining 3 losing clubs, thus making 12 tricks.

On the day, only 2 declarers succeeded in making the 12 tricks that were available on a diamond lead. Bridge Solver suggests that only 11 tricks should be made when West is the declarer, but that requires a club lead, which won't happen in real life.



28 July

Strategy at Teams

Rakesh Kumar

On Saturday 27 July SHBC ran its GNOT Club Qualifying event. There were 9 teams entered so the competition was played as a round robin of 6-board matches.

Teams events are scored as IMPs and the strategy is thus quite different from matchpoint pairs, as well as being somewhat different from IMP Swiss Pairs. Because all that matters is the score relative to the other table, in the bidding it's usually a good idea to push on to any potentially making game, as well as to try to push the opponents around and keep them out of their games and slams. With that in mind, what would you do with this hand (only your side vulnerable) after your LHO deals and opens 2S (weak), partner overcalls 3C and RHO passes?

♠K765
♥A97
♦642
♣A97

Here's another problem (overleaf). With neither side vulnerable, as dealer you open 1H, LHO passes and partner raises to 2H. RHO overcalls 2S. Feeling optimistic about your singleton spade and the known 9-card trump fit, you bid 4H, but LHO continues to 4S, passed back to you. What now?

♠6
 ♥Q65432
 ♦KJ72
 ♣AK

The board associated with the first hand was a good example of the need to seize every opportunity to score a vulnerable game bonus. Partner must surely have some 11+ hcp and a good club suit, you have stoppers in both majors and hopefully partner has a stopper in diamonds, so why not bid 3NT? This was the full deal:

BD: 19 ♠3 **Dir: S**
 ♥Q6532 **Vul: E-W**
 ♦A987
 ♣K43
 ♠AT ♠K765
 ♥KT8 ♥A97
 ♦Q3 ♦642
 ♣QJT852 ♣A97
 ♠QJ9842
 ♥J4
 ♦KJT5
 ♣6

 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
 T
 N - 2 - 2 - 9
 S - 2 - 1 - 12 11
 E 4 - 1 - 3 8
 W 4 - 1 - 3

In fact there was no diamond stopper, but diamonds were 4-4 and with the ♣K favourably located, 9 tricks rolled in. However, in our event only a small minority of East-West pairs bid the game.

The bidding associated with the second hand was a fine example of how to make life difficult for the opposition. Are you just being pushed around? Should you push on to 5H in case it makes, or in case it's a good save against a making 4S contract? The deal is on the next page:

BD: 17	♠6	Dlr: N
	♥Q65432	Vul: None
	♦KJ72	
	♣AK	
♠AKQ9842		♠J73
♥87		♥K9
♦8		♦AQT6
♣JT9		♣8762
	♠T5	
	♥AJT	
	♦9543	
	♣Q543	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	N
		T
N	1 2 3 - -	13
S	- 2 2 - -	10 10
E	- - - 2 -	7
W	- - - 2 -	

Despite good shape, North really shouldn't consider bidding 5H with a minimum hand after partner's simple raise. The old dictum about "the five-level belongs to the opponents" makes sense here. Most North-South pairs duly defended 4S, which went down. Being too clever for my own good, I ignored the adage, was doubled and promptly lost 9 IMPs and the match ...



8 August

Cue or control bidding

Rakesh Kumar

On Wednesday 7 August, the gods of bridge showered high cards upon North-South. Apart from a 20 hcp hand each, South was dealt one hand with 25 hcp while North was dealt one with 23 and one with 27 hcp!

Bidding to 3NT or 6NT, as appropriate, is relatively straightforward when one has high card points in abundance. To my mind, though, the most interesting deal of the evening was the one below, in which North-South had fewer hcp but the combined hands had great potential:

BD: 6	♠AKQ972	Dir: E
	♥AK98	Vul: EW
	♦K6	
	♣5	
♠84		♠J
♥T652		♥QJ7
♦J9854		♦732
♣A2		♣QJT874
	♠T653	
	♥43	
	♦AQT	
	♣K963	
	♣♦♥♠	N
		T
N	2 2 4 6 5	19
S	2 2 4 6 5	5 7
E		9
W		

How would you bid these? After 3 passes, North has a relatively easy 2C opening, assuming you have agreed that a 4-loser hand with a good 6+ major suit and at least 18/19 hcp is worthy of your strongest opening. But what happens next?

That depends on what your agreements are about how to respond to a 2C opening. Depending on whether you believe responder should describe her/his hand or await opener's description, there are many alternative response structures available e.g.

- 2D waiting
- 2D negative, others suit-showing positives
- 2D positive, 2H very weak, others natural 5+ suits with top honours

- step responses, showing high card points
- step responses, showing number of top controls (where A=2, K=1).

All of these appear to work well enough, although some are more suited to particular hand types. However, I strongly support the notion that the 2C opener should be the one to "tell" first, because this makes it easier for responder to co-operate in reaching the final contract. So my preference is for responder to bid 2D waiting.

On this hand, after 2C-2D opener will of course rebid 2S. That makes responder's hand look really good: with 4-card support and 8 losers, s/he should be thinking about slam based on the loser count ($24 - [4 + 8] = 12$ tricks possible). How does responder show that s/he has good support? The answer is to agree suit at the cheapest level rather than jump to game i.e. raising 2S to 3S shows a better hand than jumping to 4S.

Why is that a good idea? Because it leaves room for both North and South to describe holdings in the other suits that will cover possible losers – not only aces and kings but also shortages i.e. singletons or voids. These bids of new suits after suit agreement, known as cue bids or controls bids, are made "up the line" i.e. cheapest suit first. Once upon a time the approach was to show aces before kings, but modern style cue bidding shows any control, to make best use of the available bidding space. So on this deal, after 2C-2D-2S-3S North would rebid 4C showing a control in that suit (in this case a singleton) and South would then rebid 4D.

That last rebid makes slam almost a certainty if South has an ace – it doesn't matter whether the control is in fact $\spadesuit A$ or whether South is showing shortage in diamonds and has $\clubsuit A$. Holding $\heartsuit AK$ and all the top spades, North can roll out Keycard Blackwood and then bid 6S with a high expectation of making the contract. It proves to be unbeatable even though South's $\clubsuit K$ is of no value.

Unfortunately in our club session, no one reached the slam. Maybe you will incorporate some of the above ideas and get there next time ...

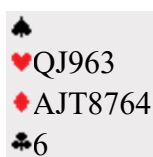


20 August

How low can you go?

Rakesh Kumar

As dealer, with both sides not vulnerable, what will you do with this hand?



If you play 5-card weak twos, you might consider opening 2H. You might choose to do that even if you usually promise a 6-card suit, simply because of the exceptional shape. However, would a weak two-bid do justice to this hand? True, it has only 8 hcp, but it's notionally a 5-loser hand that will be worth a lot of tricks if you can find a fit with partner ...

You may find this surprising, but many top experts would open 1H with this hand, expecting to rebid 2D over a 1S/1NT/2C response but hoping that partner will prove to have a fit with hearts. They would not have been disappointed, because this was the full deal from Monday 19 August:

BD: 18 ♠AJ94 ♥84 ♦532 ♣KJ43 ♠KT83 ♥KT752 ♦K9 ♣T5 ♠Q7652 ♥A ♦Q ♣AQ9872 ♣♦♥♠ N T	Dlr: E Vul: NS ♠ ♥QJ963 ♦AJT8764 ♣6 ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
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	N	5	6	9	
S	5	6	9	8	
E	4	5		14	
W	4	5			

After a 1H opening, South might overcall 1S or bid 2H to show spades and a minor suit. In either case, West would now have a choice between cue-bidding 2S, to show a good raise to 3H, or a direct bid of 4H – the latter is probably a better idea with modest values and 5-card support.

A jump to 4H would certainly put North on the spot – raising to 4S might seem to be a very optimistic action. So East-West would have a good chance of buying the contract and would make 11 tricks without effort.

By contrast, if East opens 2H and South overcalls 2S, even if West raises to 4H it will now be fairly automatic for North to continue to 4S over the pre-empt. Double dummy this contract makes 12 tricks, but in real life 11 tricks are more likely.

Obviously there's something to be said for opening very light indeed with suitable shape ... but how low would *you* dare to go?

In a remarkable quirk of random dealing by the resident computer, only 2 boards later it was West's turn to have a sub-minimum opening hand with 5 hearts, a long minor suit and 5 losers:

BD: 20	♠AK6	Dlr: W	
	♥854	Vul: ALL	
	♦KQ73		
	♣T64		
♠95		♠QJ87	
♥QJ962		♥AKT	
♦		♦AJ952	
♣AQ9732		♣8	
	♠T432		
	♥73		
	♦T864		
	♣KJ5		
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	N	
		T	
N			12
S			9 15
E	4 2 5 4 3		4
W	4 2 5 4 3		

Being vulnerable, perhaps you'd feel a bit more cautious this time and if able to open a weak 2H promising only 5 cards, would choose that option. However, a 1H opening would work out fine once again: 4H makes easily on a cross-ruff and once the ♣K drops, declarer can draw trumps and claim 11 tricks!

