

Re-evaluation revisited

Rakesh Kumar

What is your hand worth? That depends ... there are many tools for hand evaluation e.g. high card points, losing trick count, quick tricks etc but most of these operate in isolation. For anything other than a "brute force" notrump contract, the true worth of your hand is a function of how well it fits with partner's hand, as well as the position of honours in your hand relative to honours held by the opponents. So in a contested auction, it's important to re-evaluate your hand as information becomes available. Consider, for example, this hand:

```
♠KT
♥Q982
♦A963
♣965
```





You are the dealer and neither side is vulnerable. With just 9 hcp and no shape, of course you pass. Your LHO opens 2D, alerted and described as a weak two-bid in diamonds (i.e. 6-9 hcp, typically a 6-card diamond suit). Partner overcalls 2H and RHO bids 2S.

What do you think of your hand now? You have excellent support for partner's heart suit. You hold 4 diamonds, so partner may well have a singleton, and because your diamonds are headed by the ace, you probably cover partner's loser in that suit. RHO is likely to have the ace of spades, so your doubleton king should mean there is only one loser in that suit. And if LHO has values in diamonds while RHO has values in spades, partner probably has her values concentrated in hearts and clubs. So what should you do at this point?

Well, if partner has as little as say ♠xxx ♥KJTxx ♦x ♣AKxx, which is not much to ask for a 2H overcall, there should be only 3 losers i.e. one each in spades, hearts and clubs. So it's time to upgrade your previously uninteresting hand and bid 4H!

That turns out to be cold, because this was the full deal from Monday 17 February:

```
BD: 1      ♠KT      Dlr: N
           ♥Q982  Vul: None
           ♦A963
           ♣965
♠Q87542   ♠93
♥K4        ♥63
♦72        ♦QJT854
♣A32      ♣KJ7
           ♠AJ6
           ♥AJT75
           ♦K
           ♣QT84
```

					N	T
N	3	4		3	9	
S	3	4		3	9	7
E		1				15
W		1				

In fact your assumptions about where partner's values might have been were on this occasion completely wrong, but it didn't matter. On the day, only 2 pairs managed to bid the game ...

