

Board 15 on Wednesday the 29th of January had a number of interesting features that although had little effect on the final result, had some numerous lessons.

South was Vul and passed. West opened 2 Spades, weak, and North had some alternatives. Some would bid 3H, at our table they Doubled for takeout. East should bid 4 Spades to take up as much room as possible, and on another day might have left NS in serious difficulty to bid on. At our table East passed, hoping that 2S X would be the final contract. (Not too likely).

South bid 3H, a real under bid, and West bid 4H of course. East now came in with 4S and South bid 5H.

If East had bid 4S immediately, it might have been clearer to West to sacrifice, but as it was 5H was the final contract.

The defence was interesting. The lead was the Queen of Spades, and after this won the trick West had no idea what to play next. It actually didn't matter on this hand, but East should have overtaken the QS and played two top clubs.

(FWIW. The computer says EW can make 4S, but only if you finesse the 9 of Clubs).