



Ask a Director

by Matthew McManus

Q:

Am I being psyched?

In your opinion does the following constitute a PSYCHE bid?

The hands are

N ♠QT8 ♥Q8 ♦AQ2 ♣AQT52

E ♠A96 ♥KT72 ♦J87543 ♣-

S ♠KJ32 ♥A ♦AQ ♣KJ8764

W ♠754 ♥J96543 ♦T6 ♣93

The bidding went North

W	N	E	S
	1NT (12-14)	P	2C
2H	P	4H	5C
//			

I contend West's bid of 2♥ would be a psyche bid. East's pass was after some hesitation. I could perhaps accept west bidding 3♥ but not to NS contend the bid of 2♥ stopped them finding slam because of the expected points there.

What do you think?

A:

West's call is certainly light on. I think that it is sufficiently unexpectedly weak as to qualify as a psychic call.

Having said that, I do not believe that there is any room for any further action by the director. There is nothing to indicate that East has "fielded the psyche". Bidding to 4♥ and the selling out to 5♣ is not an unreasonable action on their hand.

I have little sympathy for NS's contention that West's call stopped them bidding the slam. South knows NS have a minimum of 30 high card points between the two hands. Furthermore, holding the singleton ♥A with opponents bidding hearts suggests that North's high cards are likely to be in the other suits and so "working". South knows that one of East or West is bidding on very minimal values.

I trust this is of help.