

Alt Best Hands Awards - Nominated Hand - Bidding

Reference Number: Bid 9

Nominated by:

Name: Simon Stocken **Country:** UK
Mark Horton UK

Player(s): Zia Mahmood & Steve Garner **Team:** Gupta

Event: **Date:** **Match:** **Board:**
Elevator 1 29.07. 11 3

Link to replay: <https://tinyurl.com/2e8dytmb>

Nominator's comments:

Mark nominated, and Jan van Cleeff supported, pointing out that the contract fails on the bad break, but worthy of a nomination anyway

Simon wrote

For no Reward

Simon Stocken

Such is the nature of bridge that sometimes an excellent bidding sequence must be its own reward. Look at this deal from round 11 of the July ALT Elevator:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

```
#S J 8 3
#H Q J 6 5
#D 8 4
#C Q 9 5 4
#S 9 7 4      #S Q 10 6 5
#H 10 9      #H 8 7 4 2
#D K 10 5 3    #D Q 7 6 2
#C 10 8 7 6    #C J
#S A K 2
#H A K 3
#D A J 9
#C A K 3 2
```

In the Closed Room, Jason Pitt and Ewan McNay bid
2#C*-2#D*-2#H*-2#S*-2NT*-3#C*-3#D*-3NT and recorded +490.

Open Room

West North EastSouth
Ng Garner HunZia

— — — 2#C*
 Pass2#D* Pass2#H*
 Pass2#S* Pass2NT*
 Pass3#C* Pass3#D*
 Pass4NT Pass5NT
 Pass6#C PassPass
 Pass

2#H Kokish: hearts or balanced
 2#S Kokish: relay
 2NT 25–26 or 29+ balanced
 3#C Puppet
 3#D No major

The critical moment came when North jumped to 4NT, showing some values. When South continued with a 5NT ‘pick-a-slam’ South showed his club suit and the ideal contract had been reached – they were the only pair to manage it.

West led the #C8 and the trick was completed by the four, jack and king. Needing only a 3-2 trump split declarer continued with the #CA and East’s discard of the #H7 was a blow from which there was no recovery.

Nevertheless, I have no hesitation in nominating the deal for the bid72 ALT Best Bid Hand Award.

The screenshot shows a Bridge Base hand viewer interface. At the top, there are browser tabs and a URL. The main area displays a hand with four players: North (gamer), West (smoz), South (zia), and East (icycookie). A bidding table is visible in the top right corner.

Player	Hand
N gamer	♠ J83 ♥ QJ65 ♦ 84 ♣ Q954
W smoz	♠ 974 ♥ 109 ♦ K1053 ♣ 10876
S zia	♠ AK2 ♥ AK3 ♦ AJ9 ♣ AK32
E icycookie	♠ Q1065 ♥ 8742 ♦ Q762 ♣ J

Bidding Table:

	W	N	E	S
P	2♦		P	2♥
P	2♠		P	2NT
P	3♣		P	3♦
P	4NT		P	5NT

Bottom right of the hand viewer shows: 6♣ S NS: 0 EW: 0

At the bottom, there is a Windows taskbar with a search bar, system tray, and taskbar icons. The system tray shows 9°C and the date 09/11/2021.