

### Stripe-Tailed Ape New Suit at the 3 Level

The concept of the Stripe-Tailed Ape double is well known. You double a game contract hoping to persuade the opponents from bidding a slam. If they redouble, you run like a Stripe-Tailed Ape to a safe sacrifice. In the ongoing European Championship in Herning, Denmark we got to see the "Stripe-Tailed Ape New Suit at the 3 Level"

Board 32. Dealer West.

E/W Vul.

	North	
	Q 6 3	
	Q 4	
	7 6	
	K Q 10 7 6 3	
West		East
A J 8		K 7 4 2
7 6 2		A K J 10 9 2
Q 10 9 8 2		A J
8 5		A
	South	
	10 9 5	
	8 3	
	K 5 4 3	
	J 9 4 2	

In the Open Room in the match between Norway and Ireland we got to see a typical bidding sequence:

West	North	East	South
Aa	Hanlon	Livgard	Boland
P	P	1H	P
2H	3C	4H	All Pass

Slam is about 50-50, easier to make than bid on the actual layout and Livgard had no problems getting 12 trick for 680. Could Ireland do better in the closed room?

West	North	East	South
Fitzgibbon	Bakke	Mesbur	Brogeland
P	3C	dbl	3H(!)
All pass			

What can poor East do? If he doubles, Brogeland will, like a Stripe-Tailed Ape run to 4 clubs. For all East knows, South could sit with something like AQ3, Q87634 K3 42. So 8 undertricks for - 400 gave 7 imps to Norway.

Thanks to Espen Gisvold for this contribution