


44. A Weak Response with Any Five Card Suit

Published on page 2 of the Trail Daily Times, July 5, 2011

	♠ 82		
	♥ J8652		
	♦ K107		
	♣ Q32		
♠ AJ75 ♥ A104 ♦ QJ6 ♣ J105		♠ K10964 ♥ Q97 ♦ 54 ♣ K97	
	♠ Q3 ♥ K3 ♦ A9832 ♣ A864		
W	N	E	S
			1♦
P	1♥	P	2♣
P	2♦	All Pass	
--North South Vulnerable--			

The bidding:

South, with 13 high card points, opens one diamond, his better minor. North will bid his four-card suits up the line except when he has a five-card suit. North bids hearts, his five-card suit. South, without four-card support, bids his second suit, clubs.

South has been given a choice of two suits. He must pick diamonds because it is partner's first-bid suit which is likely longer than the second suit.

With six hearts, he could have bid two hearts, his own suit. However, with a minimum hand, six to nine points, one tries to pick one of partner's suits.

The contract: Two diamonds by South

The opening lead: The ace of spades. The unbid suit seems like a reasonable lead.

The play:

East wins the second round of spades and switches to a trump.

Declarer has a holding in hearts best played by the opponents. Clubs is about the same.

Declarer plays up to the queen of clubs which loses to the king. Opponent exit a trump because a spade would lead to a sluff-and-a-ruff.

Declarer loses two spades, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs. He gave the opponents an opportunity to help and they chose not to.

The result: Two diamonds down two for -200

Note:

-The points do not have a favourable lie for the declarer. Whether, they have or not, the declarer must try to get the opponents to play the suits for him.