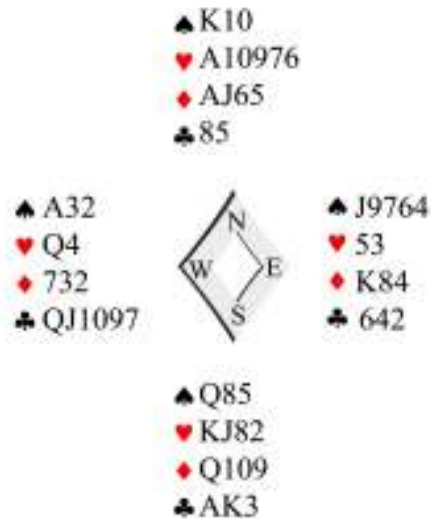


124. Adding Bidding to Whist

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W	N	E	S
		P	1NT
P	2♦	P	2♥
P	3NT	P	4♥
All Pass			

--None Vulnerable--

The last three columns have introduced a version of whist that is very similar to bridge. We just add bidding to whist, and we get bridge.

East deals the above four hands as shown last week. Everybody counts their points and if one has 12 points, one opens the bidding starting with the dealer. Here South has 15 to 17 points and a balanced hand and therefore can open 1NT. Each subsequent bid has to be either pass, double or a bid higher on the bidding ladder.

The bidding ladder is essentially alphabetical order and is one club, one diamond, one heart, one spade, one notrump, two clubs, two diamonds, two hearts, two spades, two notrump, three clubs, et cetera all the way to seven notrump.

A balanced hand means no singletons and no voids and if the hand has more than one doubleton, each doubleton has a stopper (an ace or king). If there is only one doubleton, it can be two small cards.

Over one notrump, North bids two diamonds telling partner he has five hearts or longer. North's rebid tells partner his point count and length.

The responding notrump ranges:

1. 0-7 is the weak and passing range
2. 8-9 is the invitational range
3. 10-15 is the game range (3NT or four of a major, hearts or spades)
4. 16+ is the slam range (6 or 7 level contracts)

North's hand fits number 3 so he rebids 3NT which South corrects to four hearts. If North had six hearts, he would have known right away they had the Golden fit because the one notrump bid guarantees two cards in every suit. With six hearts and game points, the rebid would have been four hearts.

The lead and the play are the same as last week. Declarer makes his contract plus one overtrick for +450 points. Scoring will be discussed in later columns.

Notes:

-The four suits are divided into two categories. The minors are clubs and diamonds and the major suits are hearts and spades.

-Bidding game (3NT, 4 of a major and 5 of a minor) gives a game bonus while bidding slam gives slam bonuses. One only says one made a game or slam when it is bid and made.

-All the bridge columns may be viewed at <http://watsongallery.ca>.