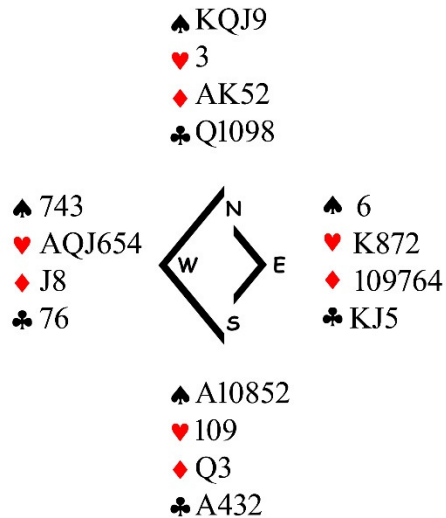


231 . Direct Action Over A Weak Two

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S	W	N	E
	2♥	Dbl	5♥
5♠	All Pass		

--North South Vulnerable--



The bidding:

East opens the bidding in second seat with a weak two in hearts. He has a good six-card with three of the top five honours or better and less than 10 points. Not many people will fail to open this weak two, but it does have its drawbacks.

First of all, a second seat pre-empt has an even chance of pre-empting partner and not the opponent who has yet to show his hand. Secondly, the hand has spade support. In spite of these drawbacks, since there is no outside four-card major,

and the points are concentrated in hearts, the weak two is an adequate description of the hand.

There are two important considerations when somebody has opened a weak two. Direct action by an opponent requires more than a minimum opener of 12 to 14 points. Secondly, the partner of the pre-emptor will not bid game with such a minimum opener and may not take any action at all depending on his support for partner.

North doubles in direct seat with 15 HCP's and support for all of the unbid suits of three or four cards. Here, he has the ideal shape. East pre-empts as high as he feels safe. It is best to speak at one's first chance or forever hold one's peace.

South bids Five Spades. One never bids over a five-level sacrifice unless one is sure the contract is in the bag. One normally doubles and takes a positive score.

East must have at least four-card support for his bid, leaving North with a stiff or void in addition to 15 HCP's. Five has a very good chance of making.

The Play:

South ruffs a heart and draws trump. With an eight-card fit, South runs the 10 of clubs through his own holding. If East shows out, he wins the ace and leads up to the Queen. Otherwise, he lets the ten ride. If West wins the Jack, he then finesses with the Queen.

Had Clubs been a nine-card fit, he would cash the Ace and lead up to the Queen.

Declarer loses a Heart and a Club, making his contract for +650.