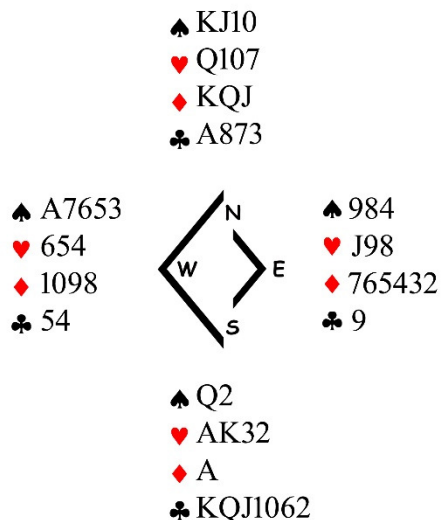


296. Showing Stoppers With Inverted Minors II

Inverted Minors and Slam

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W	N	E	S
		P	1 ♣
P	2 ♣	P	2 ♦
P	3 ♦	P	3 ♥
P	3 ♠	P	4NT
P	5 ♦	P	6 ♣
All Pass			

--Both Vulnerable--

The bidding:

South opens *One Club* and North bids an inverted minor *Two Clubs* showing no skipped four-card suit and ten or more points. It is imperative that North never takes things in his own hands and jumps to *Three No Trump*. First of all, he cannot because he has extra values and secondly, one is playing inverted minors not just to have it on one's convention card but to find the best contract. North bids *Two Clubs* for no other reason than to hear what South has to say.

South has slam aspirations but cannot use Blackwood (yet) with two quick Spade losers. South cuebids first round Diamond control. North does not know for sure whether South is just showing a stopper or is cuebidding, but knows he has to cuebid because he has extra values. He skips Hearts, Spades and Clubs denying first round control in these suits to show second round Diamond control. South then shows first round Heart control. It is first round not second round control because it is his first chance to cuebid Hearts. North then shows second round Spade control and South has heard enough.

South uses Blackwood because partner has cuebid the suit in which he has two quick losers just to double check that two keycards are not missing. North has one keycard and Six Clubs becomes the contract. Had North bid Five Clubs showing zero keycards, South would have passed.

Opening Lead:

West leads the Spade Ace because the second round cuebid is in front of him and no opponent has a Spade void because first round Spade control was not shown.

The Play:

East plays the Spade eight under partner's Ace because he does not want partner opening up another suit. West leads a second Spade, declarer wins, draws trump and claims. Had West not led his Spade, declarer makes seven. However, he made Six for +1370.