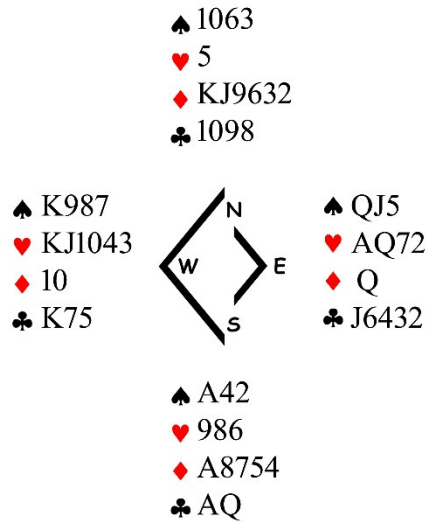


300. Weak Inverted Minors-Bypasses 3NT

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W	N	E	S
		P	1 ♦
P	4 ♦	All Pass	

--East West Vulnerable--

This is the 300th column published in the Trail Times.

We have seen that a jump in a minor is weak. A double jump that bypasses 3NT is even weaker. If one had a hand that one felt was not suited for Three No Trump but was an invitational hand to Five Diamonds, one would bid inverted minor Two Diamonds first.

Four Diamonds has no forward going value at all and is just trying harder to shut the opponents out without giving too much if doubled and partner has a minimum opener.

The bidding:

South has 14 HCP's with a five-card suit. However, the suit is very poor and the hand has no tens and no intermediate cards. Therefore, South opens One Diamond not One No Trump.

West might do a five-four Michael's Bid but not at this vulnerability. West passes, as a hand with three Kings, no Aces and poor-playable suits should. North with four cards in the majors and six Diamonds and less than 8 points, jumps to Four Diamonds. East cannot double with 12 HCP's, two of which are in a wasted Diamond Queen. East is not even four-four in the majors. A hand with a difference in length of two in the unbid suits, should rarely double a one level bid, not to mention a four-level bid. Any bid by East other than pass would be foolish.

Opening Lead:

West leads his fourth best Spade. A tenace lead is often not wise except at No Trump, so a Heart is not led. A Club lead is not wise either because short suit leads from an honour are risky.

The Play:

Declarer will win the Spade Ace and then draw trump.

The result:

He will lose two Spades, one Heart and one Club for down one when the opponents should be in Two Hearts making four if North does not pre-empt the auction. Overly aggressive players may find Four Hearts, but making the contract this time will unlikely make up for all the contracts in which they go down.