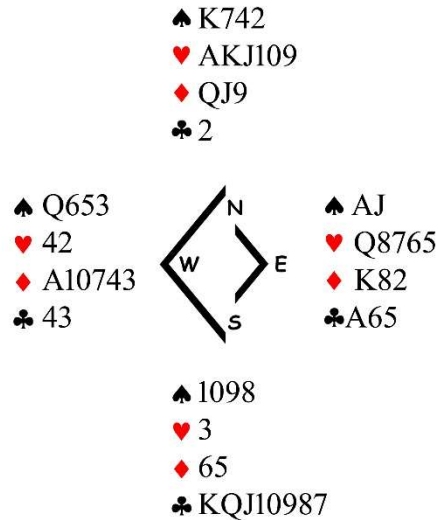


306. Run Out to a Long Suit

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E	S	W	N
		P	1 ♥
P	INT	P	2 ♦
P	3 ♣	All Pass	

--None Vulnerable--

In a previous column, Three Clubs over a major opening showed an invitational hand. A partnership must agree to play that. Some will incorrectly play that Three Clubs over One of a major shows a pre-emptive hand. This, however, puts one in the situation that one is pre-empting partner when he does have points.

One hates to pre-empt when partner might have points as it puts added pressure on partner to do the right thing at a high level. When partner opens, one knows partner has points and should be careful when pre-empting.

Furthermore, one does not want to end up in a double misfit at the three level until one has exhausted other possibilities.

The bidding:

North opens One Heart, and South replies with a forcing One No Trump. North is not strong enough to reverse in Spades, and therefore must bid a three-card Diamond suit. South bids Three Clubs which is to play. To invite to 3NT, one bids Three Clubs directly over One Heart.

It might be argued that South could have used a pre-emptive Three Club bid because that's where they ended up anyways. However, South must give North a chance for a rebid. If North rebid Two Spades, South would pass partner in a six-one fit. However, if partner is really strong, he gets to show it at a lower level because it is easier to jump shift over 1NT than over Three Clubs without bypassing Three No Trump.

Opening Lead:

West leads fourth best in the unbid suit Spades.

The Play:

Declarer ducks and East plays the Spade Jack. East wins and switches to a Diamond. Declarer will lose two Spades, no Hearts, two Diamonds and one Club for down one and -50.