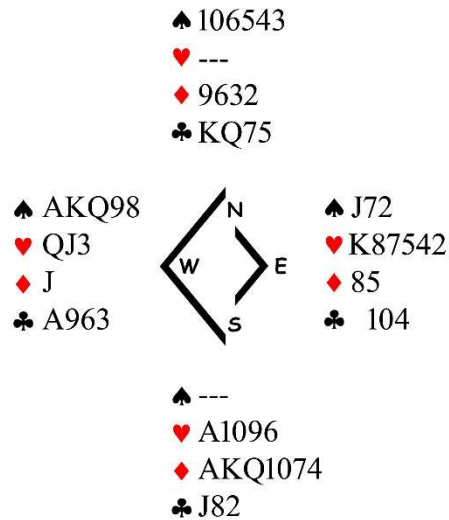


310. Don't Let Them Play

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| | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| E | S | W | N |
| | 1 ♦ | Dbl | 1 ♠ |
| 2 ♥ | 3 ♦ | 3 ♥ | 5 ♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

--East West Vulnerable--

This is a hand that occurred at the Calgary Fall sectional and is an example of where South cannot let East or West play a major at the four-level.

The bidding:

South opens One Diamond and West doubles. He has extra values and intends to rebid his Spade suit. He has at least three cards in the unbid suits so the double is absolutely safe. North is required to bid his hand, and shows his Spade suit even though the doubler may have it. North has more than enough to respond because if partner does not have four Spades, he will have four Diamonds and then they have a Diamond fit.

East responds even though he is short on points because of the six cards in a suit

partner showed with his double. South rebids Diamonds, and North bids Five Diamonds.

Because of the Spade bid by North, West cannot show his Spade suit. I like overcalls to be eight plus points and not limited to 15 because I do not like off-shape doubles even with 16 points because partner could jump to game in a suit one does not have or an opponent can bid one's strong suit with four-little or with a psych (a lie) to block the bidding.

The Play:

West leads the Spade Ace which gets ruffed. Declarer draws one round of trump and then proceeds to ruff three hearts in dummy keeping the Heart Ace for when trump are drawn. He ruffs Spades for transportation. Declarer then draws the last trump, drives out the Club Ace, and claims 12 tricks for +420.

The real results:

The common bidding is shown above for this hand that occurred during the team event. At my table, Spades were never bid by North, just West. I played Four Hearts doubled down one for -200. Spades would be down more (even with a good split) because my hand had no entries in a Spade contract to get to my good Hearts after trump were drawn. A Spade contract would be a disaster.

Our teammates were in Five Diamonds, doubled, making six for 650 so we won 10 imps on the board, a very good result.