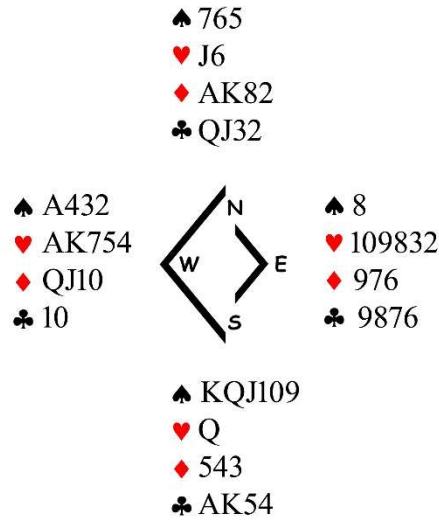


# 313. The Forcing Game

Published on page 8 of the Trail Times, Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016



E	S	W	N
P	1 ♠	P!	2 ♣
P	3 ♣	P	3 ♠
P	4 ♠	P!	P
P			

--East West Vulnerable--

Here is another gem of a hand from the Calgary fall sectional.

## The bidding:

South opens the bidding One Spade and West cannot bid. It is too risky to make a five-card vulnerable overcall at the two-level. The Diamonds, Spades and top two Hearts all scream to defend the hand. It would be a shame if West had four defensive tricks and ended up doubled in Two Hearts for a phone number. 1-800 is not toll free in bridge.

North and South are playing Standard American and North bids Two Clubs with the

intention of bidding Three Spades to show a three-card limit raise. South raises Clubs and North shows Spade support. South bids game.

### **Opening Lead:**

With four trump, West does not even give a fleeting thought to leading the stiff club. He cashes the Ace then the King of Hearts and when declarer pitches a losing Diamond, he switches to the Diamond Queen.

If West leads the Club ten, he will never get East in to give him a ruff and there will be no chance to set the contract.

### **The Play:**

Declarer pitches a losing Diamond on the second Heart and now the short trump hand can take care of any Heart continuation. He then plays trump. West refuses to take the first two trump tricks. Now when he wins the trump Ace, there will be no trump in dummy, and he can lead Hearts again.

### **The Result:**

If declarer ruffs the second round of Hearts, West will win the Ace and 4 and two more Hearts. The defense will get two Spades, three Hearts and a Diamond for +150.

If declarer makes a loser-on-loser play he will get +420. If West leads his singleton Club, the contract will be fool-proof and declarer will get +420 with no critical decisions needing to be made.

One does not want a ruff with four or more trump. One wants to make declarer ruff in the long-trump hand and he will lose control of the hand.