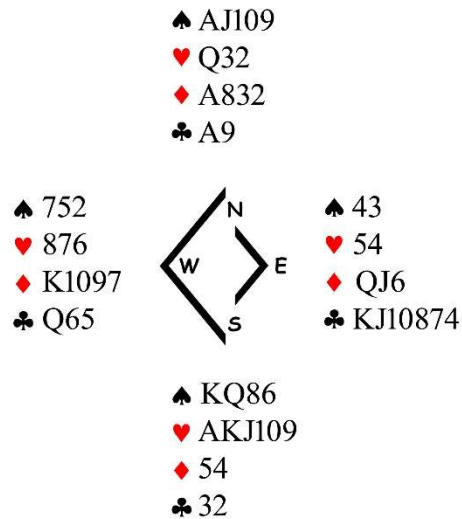


320. Four-Four Better Than Five-Three

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	E	S	W	N
	P	1♥	P	1♠
	P	2♠	P	4♠
	All Pass			

--East West Vulnerable--

The bidding:

With 13 HCP's, South opens his five-card major, One Heart. North has three Hearts so they have the golden eight-card fit in Hearts. However, since North has a full opener or better, he can bid his hand naturally. He bids One Spade and when South raises, North goes to game.

A four-four fit is often better than a five-three fit because North has no short hand ruffs and losers can be discarded on the long Hearts. In Spades, South can get a short-hand ruff in Diamonds. Since Clubs are two-two with mirrored

shortness, there are no short hand ruffs for North.

Opening Lead:

The Diamond Ten, top of an interior sequence. Either of the unbid suits must be led because Hearts will afford discards for declarer.

The Play:

Declarer wins the Diamond Ace, draws trump, and runs Hearts pitching a Club and a Diamond. Declarer will lose a Diamond and then ruff a Diamond and a Club.

The Result:

Declarer will win three Spades, five Hearts, one Diamond, one Club and two Spade ruffs for 12 tricks and +480. In Four Hearts, declarer will make +450.