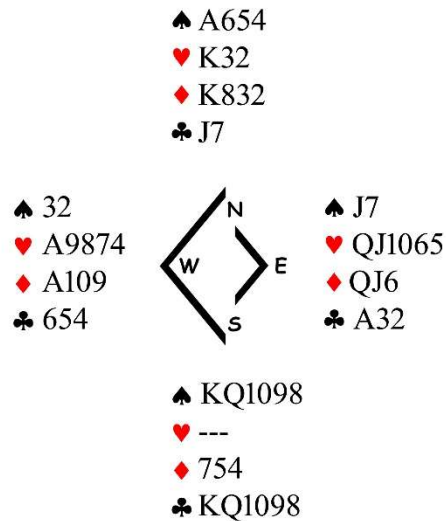


321 . Five-Five Better Than the Points

Published on page 2 of the Trail Times, Wednesday January 25th, 2017



E	S	W	N
P	1 ♠	P	3 ♠
P	4 ♠	All Pass	

--North South Vulnerable--

Two-suited hands play better than the points indicate. The modified Rule of Twenty states that if the total points excluding any wasted points plus the length of the two longest suits is 20 or more then the hand is opened in the higher ranking suit.

The bidding:

According to the modified Rule of 20, South has an opener because ten HCP's and two five-card suits make 20. South opens One Spade and North bids Three Spades with his four-card limit raise. North with a minimum usually passes, but his suits are really good with touching honours and good intermediate cards. If one of the

black Kings is the Diamond King, then South clearly has a pass. Instead, South bids Four Spades.

Opening Lead:

West does not want to cash a red Ace so he leads trump. Declarer has a nine-card fit so if partner has the trump Queen, it is falling doubleton. West is doing nothing that declarer cannot do for himself.

The Play:

Declarer wins the Spade Queen and draws trump. He then plays a small Club to the Jack. East wins the Club Ace and exits the Heart Queen which declarer ruffs. The Heart Queen is in a three touching honour sequence and the Diamond Queen is riskier if declarer has the Ace and the Ten.

Declarer cashes his Clubs pitching three Diamonds from dummy. He exits a Diamond and then cross-ruffs the hand. Declarer will lose a Club and a Diamond for +650.