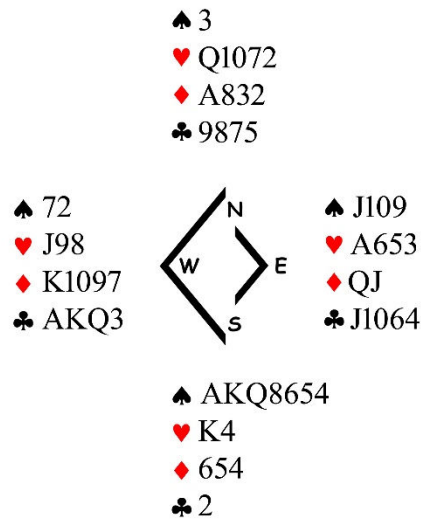


323. Seven-Card Suit Better Than the Points

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E	S	W	N
P	1♠	P	1NT
P	4♠	All Pass	

--None Vulnerable--

The bidding:

North, with his 12 HCP's and 7.5 quick tricks, opens One Spade. North replies 1NT showing 6-9 HCP's and any distribution with two Spades or fewer because he does not have the ten HCP's to bid a new suit at the two-level or the three Spades to show support. South jumps to game in his suit, safe in the knowledge that North cannot possibly have enough to make a slam.

Opening Lead:

West has a natural lead of three touching honours and leads the Club Queen. East plays the Club Jack showing the possession of the Ten.

The Play:

West continues with a small Club so that partner can attack Diamonds, but declarer ruffs. Declarer draws trump and plays the Heart King because he is short of entries to dummy and cannot use the Diamond Ace or the defense will get two diamond tricks. The proper way to play the Hearts is small up to the King then back towards the tenace, but declarer does not have the communication.

East wins the Heart Ace and exits the Diamond Queen. Declarer wins the Diamond Ace and ruffs a Club. Declarer now cashes his last two trump and watches the discards. East discards two Hearts, but if he could see all of the hands, he would have discarded a Club and the Diamond Jack, pretending he was guarding the Heart Jack. West discards the Diamond Nine and Ten. It looks like West is protecting the Heart Jack so declarer can confidently play a small Heart to the Ten and pitch two Diamonds on the Heart Queen and the Heart Seven.

Declarer goes down if he does not play to the Heart Ten so he really had no choice. He also had to watch the Heart spots and notice that his Heart Seven became good.

The Result:

Declarer loses a Club and a Heart for +450. Declarer cannot make on a Diamond opening lead which fortunately is not the correct lead from West's hand.