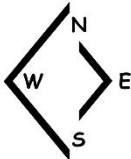


325. Bidding Three Suits Implies Shortness in the

Fourth Suit

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♠ 854 ♥ 6 ♦ AQ754 ♣ KQ42	♠ 972 ♥ AJ83 ♦ J83 ♣ J75		♠ J103 ♥ KQ9754 ♦ 62 ♣ 98
♠ AKQ6 ♥ 102 ♦ K109 ♣ A1063			

N	E	S	W
1 ♦	P	1 ♠	P
2 ♣	P	2 ♥	P
2 ♠	P	3 ♣	P
4 ♠	P	6 ♣	All Pass

--East West Vulnerable--

This hand occurred in a BBO matchpoint tourney, and my partner jumped to 3NT over my One Diamond opening. Either defender picks hearts to lead, and 3NT is down two for -100.

The bidding:

However, the proper bidding is shown, and this includes East from refraining to bid a weak two in Hearts because he is vulnerable. East's hand is too weak, and the suit is too poor. Vulnerable weak-two suits are at most two-loser suits with a bad split.

South responds with his four-card Spade suit, and North rebids Clubs. In the previous column, the major was raised directly with three-card support not four. Here, that is not necessary because Diamonds are longer than Clubs.

Two Hearts, the fourth suit, is forcing to game and is artificial as it does not show Hearts. Even if players are not playing fourth suit forcing (FSF), they should never bid the fourth suit scrambling to find a fit unless they have the points to do so.

North shows delayed Spade support, and South knows he has Heart shortness. South shows Club support and North bids game in Spades. Because of partner's Heart shortness and the double fit in the minors, South jumps to Six Clubs. While Four Spades is the best game contract, Six Clubs is the safest slam contract. When most of the competition is not finding slam, the safest slam is much better than the higher scoring slam.

Opening Lead:

It is rarely correct to lead a suit in which the opponents have a singleton because this may lead to discards for the declarer and has no future in defensive tricks. However, from the bidding, the opponents do not have Heart values because if South had Heart values, he would not have liked his partner's singleton Heart and jumped to slam. Furthermore, the other three suits belong to the opponents. East leads the Heart King, and the defense keep declarer to +920.