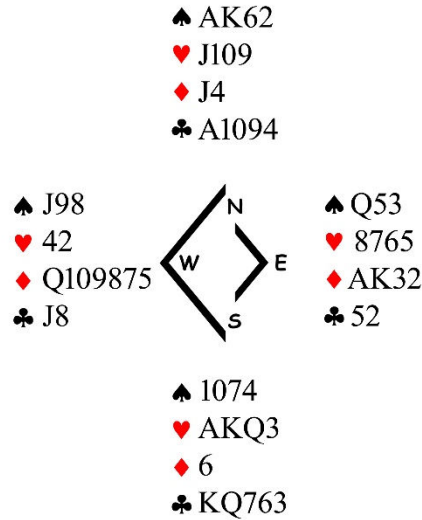


326. Moysian Play

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No Column the Week of March 1, 2017



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

--None Vulnerable--

A Moysian fit is a four-three fit which is the smallest fit with more cards than the opponents. A Moysian in a major suit is often overlooked as the best and sometimes the only makeable contract. Sometimes a suit is not stopped and five of a minor is too high. Sometimes five of a minor will make but still is often outscored by the Moysian.

The bidding:

North opens all 13-count hands even with two points in wasted values. North and South each show a major and South bids Two Diamonds which is forcing to game and says nothing about Diamonds. FSF (fourth suit forcing) always asks partner to show delayed support if he can and North does with his Two Heart bid. South shows Club support and neither one can bid No Trump because of no Diamond stopper. They end up in Four Hearts.

Opening Lead: The Diamond Ten. One always leads the suit that kept the opponents out of No Trump.

The Play:

The key to playing a Moysian is to never ruff in the long-trump hand because trump are likely split four-two. Instead of ruffing the second Diamond, declarer pitches a losing Spade, and now the short-trump hand can take care of Diamond continuations.

If declarer ruffs the second Diamond, East will win the Heart Eight and the declarer will lose control of the hand. Declarer will win two Spades, four Hearts (including one ill-advised Diamond ruff), No Diamonds and two Clubs for down two and -100.

The defense almost always switches to the suit declarer pitches in his loser-on-a-loser play. He wins the Spade, draws trump and claims.

The Result:

Declarer loses two Diamonds for +450.