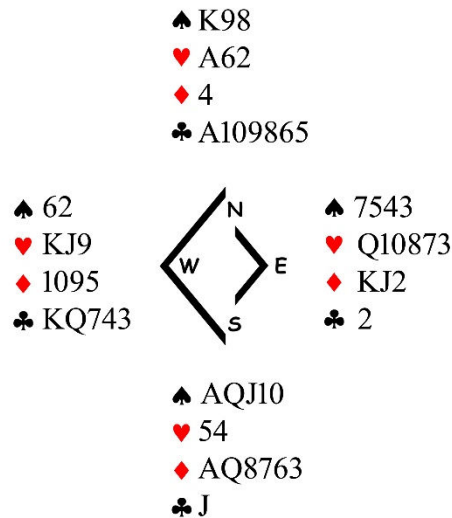


328. The Moysian Cross-Ruff

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

--None Vulnerable--

The bidding:

North opens an eleven-point hand because of a six-card suit and no wasted values. South responds One Spade and North does not raise with three-cards because he has six Clubs, and a Two-Club rebid says that. South bids a new suit, which is forcing one round, and North shows delayed Spade support. Therefore South bids Four Spades.

Opening Lead: the Spade 2

West knows there will be Club ruffs or a lot of Club losers, so he leads trump to cut the ruffing down.

The Play:

Declarer wins the Spade opening lead and counts his tricks. He has one Spade, five Spade ruffs, one Heart, one Diamond and one Club. That is nine tricks so he needs the Diamond finesse right away. Declarer crosses with a Club, and when the Diamond finesse wins, he has his tenth tricks. He cashes the Heart Ace and the Diamond Ace and cross-ruffs the hand.

The trump are high so the defenders cannot over-ruff and lead trump. Instead, they pitch their side suits. That is why declarer always cashes all of his side-suit winners before executing a cross-ruff.

If the Diamond finesse loses, and the defense exits a trump as they should, declarer would ruff Diamonds good and hope Diamonds and trump both split three-three because a long-hand ruff would be needed to get to his hand to draw the last trump and run Diamonds.

The Result:

Declarer gets his five ruffs and tens tricks for +420.