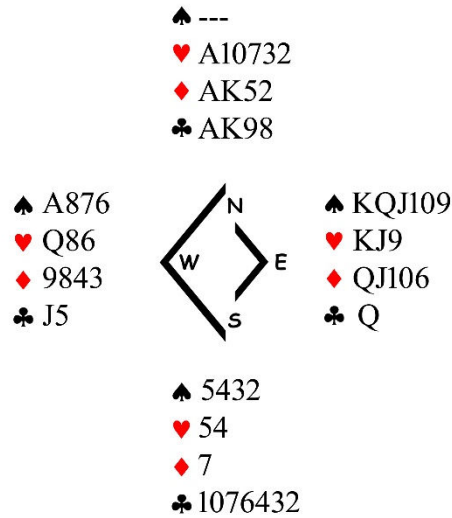


337. A Timid Five Clubs

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W	N	E	S
P	1 ♥	1 ♠	P
2 ♠	Dbl	P	4 ♣
P	5 ♣	All Pass	

--Both Vulnerable--

This is the third in the series of columns of what it means to continue to bid when partner passes.

The bidding:

North opens One Heart, and East overcalls One Spade. West raises to Two Spades, and North doubles showing 18 or more points. He must have a big hand otherwise it is pointless to think something can be made by his side.

South jumps because he has a pretty good hand for a hand that passed. A bid of Three Clubs would show a hand with no controls and no HCP's. Furthermore, it is a six-card suit. North, with very good controls in every suit, bids a timid Five Clubs.

Opening Lead: The Spade Ace

Just because partner bids the suit, it does not mean that West should free up a Spade honour in his RHO's hand. Here it is very unlikely that South has any Spade honours, so cashing the Ace cannot cost a trick.

The Play:

Declarer ruffs the opening lead and cashes the top two Diamonds pitching a Heart from his hand. He then cashes the Heart Ace and ruffs a Heart. He plays a Club to the Ace and ruffs another Heart. He plays a Club to the King and can cash his good Hearts.

If Hearts are four-two, he can ruff one more Heart and ruff a Spade back to the good Heart. If Hearts are four-two, declarer can still make six if the defender with two Hearts has only one Club.

The Result:

Declarer makes all 13 tricks for +640. After West's Four Club bid, I think Six Clubs is a reasonable bid. Both opponents bidding should never stop a player from making the correct bid. The opponents may be stretching because of their good distribution. Furthermore, a void makes the deck a 30 HCP deck, and the opponents both bidding may suggest partner has no wasted Spade values.