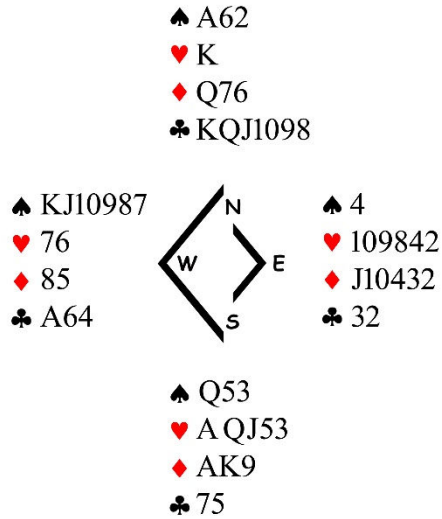


343. Western Cuebid

Published on page 5 of the Trail Times, Friday September 8th, 2017



W	N	E	S
2 ♠	3 ♣	P	3 ♥
P	3 ♠	P	3NT
All Pass			

--East West Vulnerable--

When one bids an opponent's suit that has five cards or more, one is not showing that suit. In fact, when the bid is Western cuebid, it is asking partner for a stopper in addition to whatever stopper the asker already has. Eastern cuebid is a cuebid that shows sufficient stoppers which I think is redundant because bidding No Trump is a good way to show that.

The Western cuebid is a low priority cuebid that takes a backseat to Michael's cuebid, invitational cuebid and the overcall cuebid. If one does not understand a

cuebid, it should be treated as forcing, giving the opportunity to tell partner more. One of the things that can be shown is the possession of a stopper.

The Bidding:

West opens a vulnerable weak Two Spades. The suit and the hand are of the appropriate quality at this vulnerability. The Spade suit has good intermediates and is at most a two-loser suit. Vulnerable pre-empts do not have to always be this good, but they certainly cannot be a suit such as KJ7432.

North makes a Three-Club overcall. Both a double and an overcall in direct seat show the same strength but different shape. North has more than 14 HCP's and a good textured six-card suit.

South sees enough for game and bids a new suit at the three-level. Three Hearts is forcing one round and is forcing to game if game is possible. North bids Three Spades which could be setting Hearts as trump or asking for an additional stopper.

It does not matter. South bids 3NT because of a Spade stopper, and if North has Heart support, he will bid Four Hearts over 3NT.

Opening Lead: The Spade Jack

It is too good a suit in a hand with a sure side entry to avoid leading a Spade.

The Play:

Declarer wins the Spade Queen and drives out the Club Ace.

The Result:

Declarer will lose a Club making 12 tricks for +490. This is the same result with or without a Spade lead.