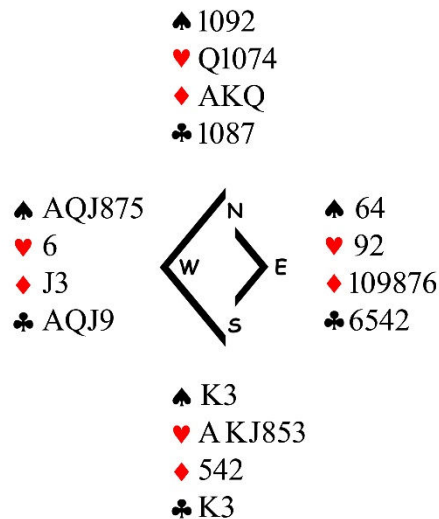


344. Support or Invitational Cuebid

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E	S	W	N
P	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠
P	3 ♥	All Pass	

--None Vulnerable--

This is a common use of the cuebid in competitive auctions. When partner gets overcalled, the cuebid sets the trump suit and shows an invitational hand or better. When partner overcalls or is not in the auction, the cuebid has other meanings.

The Bidding:

South, with his 14 HCP's, opens One Heart. West then makes a one-level overcall showing a good suit and an outside control.

North makes a cuebid showing 10 or more points and at least three Hearts. East would double the cuebid if he wanted a Spade lead, holding one of the top three honours. Therefore, he passes.

Normally, South would be happy to accept a limit raise and go to game, however, he must listen to the bidding and downgrade his black Kings.

The Opening Lead:

West does not have a good hand from which to lead. The black suits must be led up to, and a singleton trump is often a bad lead. Furthermore, a side suit shortness without trump control is also an unsatisfactory lead. However, he must lead something, so he leads the Diamond Jack.

The Play:

Declarer draws trump, strips the hand by cashing the Diamonds and plays up to the black Kings. West wins and continues the same suit twice more. West has no problem with safe exits.

The Result:

Declarer must lose four tricks making +140.