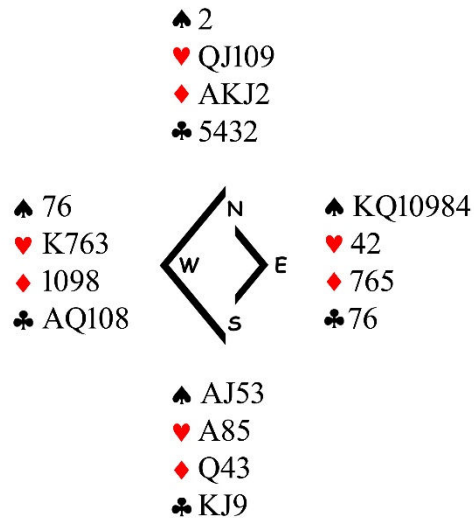


348. Not Pre-empting A Pre-empt

Written for the Trail Times, But Not published



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|----------|-----|---|-----|
| E | S | W | N |
| 2 ♠ | 2NT | P | 3 ♣ |
| P | 3 ♦ | P | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

--North South Vulnerable--

A couple of columns ago, you may recall the auction One Spade then Two No Trump. How is that different from Two Spades then Two No Trump? They are completely different.

The first one is showing the minors and is pre-emptive. However, a weak bid is not needed when the opponent makes a pre-empt himself because one does not pre-empt a pre-empt.

A Two No Trump overcall of Two Spades is the same as a One No Trump overcall of One Spade. It shows 15 to 18 balanced with Spades usually doubly stopped. Ace

third is very effective if there is only one stopper because of an initial hold-up or two.

After 2NT, systems are on identically as for over One No Trump. The two-level must be bid at the three-level. Three Clubs is Stayman, et cetera. However, the invitational bids are lost. The responder must decide which invitational hands are best to force game and which are not and must pass below game. "Take the bull by the horns." is the appropriate expression.

The Bidding:

East makes the weakest acceptable weak two. All five points are in the pre-empt suit, and the Ten is a nice addition. South makes a strong No Trump overcall and North has enough for game with four Hearts. Therefore, North bids Stayman asking for a four card major.

Please note that South makes the proper response of Three Diamonds. Let the defenders figure out the Spade situation on their own. With no Heart fit, North bid 3NT knowing that South is taking care of the Spade situation. Two No Trump is such a pledge.

Opening Lead: West leads the Spade Seven. This is the lead with or without a weak two because there is no obvious alternate and the two four-card suits are typically bad leads. Furthermore, partner said his hand was Spades.

The Play:

This contract cannot be made against good defense. When West wins the Heart King, he must not exit a Spade. He must exit a Heart. When West wins a Club, he then exits a Spade and East wins the Spade King and plays another, and his last, Club.

The Result:

Declarer will win one Spade, three Hearts, four Diamonds and no Clubs for down one and -100.