

FSF

Fourth Suit Forcing

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club
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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/FSF.pdf>

In San Antonio, I sat down at a table 15 minutes before gametime and started discussing a two-over-one convention card with my partner. A nonagenarian sat down at our table because he was going to be our first opponent. I asked my partner if we were playing Fourth Suit Forcing and before my partner could reply the nonagenarian scoffed, "So tell me when the fourth suit is not forcing."

Yes busy auctions tend to be forcing and one does not scramble to save partner from a misfit if one does not have the points to do so. I essentially agree with the nonagenarian except, when I bid the fourth suit, I may not have it at all. It is a completely artificial bid asking partner to not pass until game in No Trump or four of a minor or a game in a major has been bid.

N	S
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦

South is not showing Diamonds at all. He may or may not have them. All it does is:

- Puts a game force on
- Asks partner to further describe his hand.
 - North has denied four hearts but he bids them now it shows three.
 - North can bid:
 - 2♠ with five ♠'s
 - 3♦ with four ♦'s
 - 2NT without four ♦'s but holding a ♦ stopper.
 - 3♣ with six ♣'s, 2 or fewer ♥'s and 3 or fewer ♦'s.
 - 3♣ with five ♣'s when unable to rebid No Trump because of no ♦ stopper or an unbalanced hand.
- North must not bid 3NT, leaving partner with room to describe his hand. The game force is on so please use the extra bidding room if you need to or allow partner to.

Board 1 Not Strong Enough to Show All

North Dealer None Vulnerable

♠--- ♥A654 ♦AK543 ♣QJ98
 ♠AQ10 ♥KJ10 ♦QJ102 ♣AK5 ♠98732 ♥9 ♦9876 ♣432
 ♠KJ654 ♥Q8732 ♦--- ♣1076

N	E	S	W
1♦	P	1♠	P
2♣	All Pass		

Analysis:

South cannot rebid 2♥ because that is forcing to game. South has a minimum hand and must pick one of partner's suits. He passes 2♣. South realizes this is a misfit situation.

Opening Lead: 9♥

East is weak enough that partner clearly is strong enough to give East one or two ♥ ruffs.

The play:

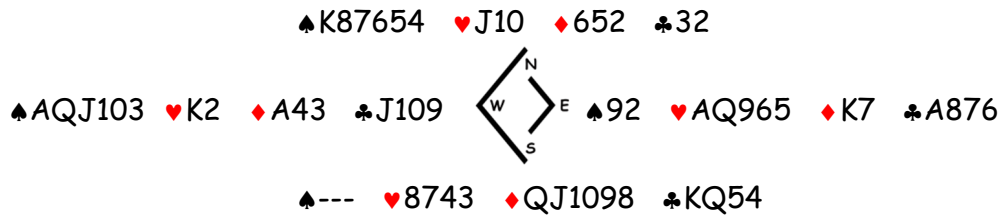
North plays a low ♥ and wins the Ace♥. No need to sacrifice the Queen because the ♥9 is likely a singleton or top of nothing. North does not draw trump but does a cross-ruff. He cashes the ♦AK and ruffs a ♦, he ruffs a ♠ and ruffs another Diamond. He ruffs another ♠. He then ruffs a good Diamond and West overruffs with the ♣King. That promotes North's ♣Queen.

The result:

Declarer gets ♥Ace, ♦AK, 2♦ ruffs and 2♠ ruffs and 1♣ making +90.

Board 2 Fourth Suit Does not Show a Stopper

North Dealer North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W	
P!!	1♥	P	1♠	
P	2♣	P	2♦	
	2♠			shows 3 ♠'s
	2♥			shows 6 ♥'s, may be 5 in a pinch
	2NT			shows ♦ stopper, 5 ♥'s & 2 ♠'s
	3♦			shows 4 ♦'s, 5 ♥'s, 4 ♣'s and 4 ♦'s
	3NT			not done, game force is on why rush

N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2NT	P	3NT
All Pass			

The Bidding:

North does not have a weak two in ♠'s. Spades are not good enough and the hand is not strong enough. Weak two's must always remain a descriptive bid in case partner has points.

2♦ is FSF and says nothing about ♦'s.

Opening Lead: ♦Q

The Play:


Win ♦King and take ♠Finesse. Run the ♠9 through even when South shows out. North must return partner's suit. Watch the ♥ spots and realize the ♥'s are good. Get 4 ♠'s, 5 ♥'s 2 ♦'s and 1 ♣ losing just the ♠King.

The result:

3NE+3 +490

Board 3 Think of a Rebid

South Dealer East West Vulnerable

	♠AQJ104	♥KQJ52	♦54	♣J				
♠9876	♥6	♦876	♣A10987		♠K32	♥10987	♦KQ109	♣32
♠5	♥A43	♦AJ32	♣KQ654					

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

Analysis:

South must open 1♦ so he has a 2♣ rebid. With a stiff ♠, he cannot rebid 1NT even if partner responds 1♠. South cannot open 1♣ and rebid 2♣ because that would show six ♣'s. It would be inaccurate to describe one's hand as one-suited when it is two suited. Opening 1♣ and rebidding 2♦ is a reverse and shows an Ace above a good opening.

North bids 2♥ to put the game force on. It shows nothing about ♥'s. 3♥ shows four hearts and 4♥ shows a fifth ♥ and five-five in the majors. South picks ♥'s.

Declarer should set ♣'s to pitch a ♦ if the ♦King was not led otherwise ♣'s will not be touched by the declarer. He must also set up ♠'s with a ruffing finesse. He can then draw trump.

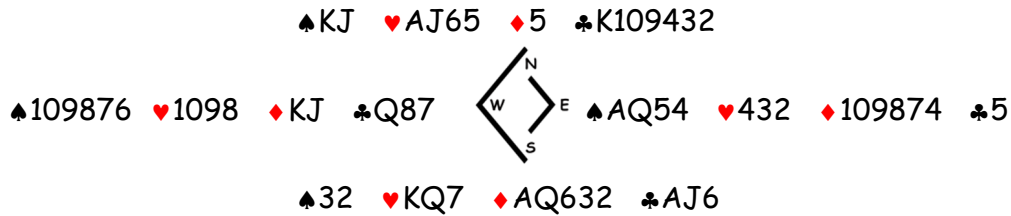
Opening lead: ♦King, top of a broken sequence.

Result:

4♥N+1 +450

Board 4 Keep Danger Hand Off of Lead

North Dealer NS Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♦	P
1♥	P	2♠	P
2NT	P	3NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: 10♦

One does not lead from AQxx but one does lead from AQxx

Analysis:

Win the ♦ Ace and to protect the spades, you cannot let West on lead. So cash the ♣ Ace and run the Jack through. If East wins the Queen, you can duck a diamond. When ♦'s are Q6 doubleton, rise with the Queen. If West switches to a ♠, you are down and that is that. However the ♣ finesse wins and you get 6 ♣'s, 1 ♦, 4 ♥'s and 0 ♠'s.

Result: 3NN+2 +660