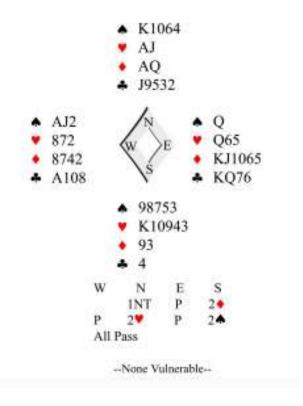
12. Transferring with five-five in the majors

Published on Page 2 of the Trail Daily Times, November 23, 2010-revised



It is no coincidence that the columns so far have shown an importance in finding a major fit over a 1 NT opener. First of all, the 1 NT opening bid is such a good descriptive bid that it should be opened with all possible balanced hands.

Secondly, the bidding over 1 NT is geared to finding a major suit game using Stayman and major suit transfers. A minor suit fit is usually not pursued except for slam explorations.

The bidding:

North opens 1 NT with 15 high card points and a balanced hand. This would not have been a balanced hand had the doubletons been weak. North wants the opening lead coming up to him, and this is unlikely if he opens a minor.

With four spades, North will not be declarer at a notrump contract unless he opens 1 NT.

If North opens one club, the opponents will likely play a contract in diamonds. South has nothing to say in this case. However, if North opens 1 NT, South transfers to hearts and then

bids two spades, which North could correct to hearts. North is happy to play two spades and passes.

When a player uses a transfer or Stayman and then bids a suit, he is showing five in that suit. Had South had a strong hand, he would have transferred to the higher ranking suit, spades, first.

The opening lead: King of clubs

The play:

Declarer ruffs the second round of clubs and plays a trump losing to the queen. Declarer ruffs the club return. Declarer plays the nine of spades to finesse the jack, but West jumps up with the ace and plays a diamond.

Declarer, knows West is probably not being cooperative but plays the queen of diamonds losing to the king. Declarer loses two spades, no hearts, one diamond and one club.

The result: Two spades making plus one for +140.