


14. Texas Transfers get quickly to game

Published on Page 2 of the Trail Daily Times, December 7, 2010

	♠ K76			
	♥ AJ65			
	♦ AQ			
	♣ J953			
♠ Q10952		♠ AJ43		
♥ K2		♥ Q		
♦ K7		♦ J1098		
♣ A1082		♣ KQ76		
	♠ 8			
	♥ 1098743			
	♦ 65432			
	♣ 4			
W	N	E	S	
	1NT	P	4♦	
P	4♥	All Pass		
	--East-West Vulnerable--			

In the last column, North-South reached a four heart contract by transferring with two diamonds and then rebidding four hearts. South knew all along that he was going to game so why did he not transfer at the four-level? Perhaps he should have because this gives opponents little chance to compete in the other major or to give lead direction.

Texas transfers are two bids, namely four diamonds transferring to hearts and four hearts transferring to spades. Texas transfers are used when going quickly to game either based on values or based on a pre-empt.

The bidding:

North opens 1NT with 15 high card points and a balanced hand. South has six hearts and knows that they have eight hearts or longer and at most 17 points. East-West have at least eight spades and 23 high-card points. They very likely have game with shortness in hearts.

The opening lead: King of clubs

The play:

Declarer ruffs the second round of clubs and finesses the hearts protecting against West having all three trump. Declarer ruffs the club continuation and takes the winning diamond finesse and then draws the last trump.

There are not enough entries to set up diamonds to pitch spades, so declarer loses one spade, one club and one heart to make four hearts.

The result: 4 hearts making for +420.

Another contract: 4 spades making for -620.

South leads either the ten of hearts or the four of clubs. A singleton lead with a singleton trump only works if partner has the Ace of clubs. Either lead, the contract makes because the six of clubs goes on the king of hearts.

Note: Even if 4 hearts went down three tricks doubled, it still is a good board for North-South.