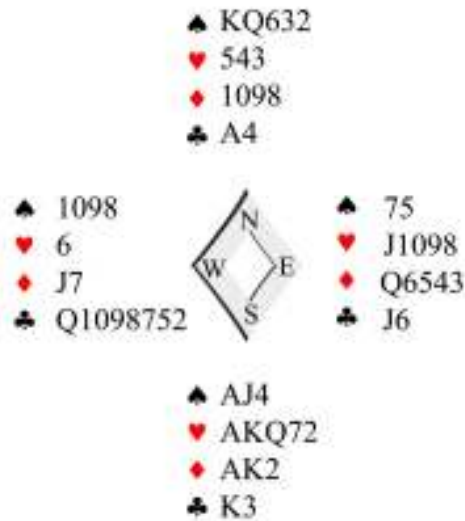


58. A Positive Response

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W	N	E	S
			2♣
P	2♠	P	3♥
P	4♥	P	4NT
P	5♦	P	7NT
All Pass			

--North-South Vulnerable--

The bidding:

South, with 24 high card points, is too strong to open 2NT so he opens two clubs with the intention of rebidding 2NT showing 22 to 24 high card points.

North has five spades with two of the top three honours. He bids two spades instead of the waiting two diamonds. This is called a positive response. 2NT is the positive response for hearts since two hearts is negative.

South bids three hearts and North shows support. South then asks for aces and North shows one ace. South knows North has five spades to the king and queen and has the ace of diamonds. South can count to thirteen and bids seven notrump.

The contract: Seven Notrump by South

The opening lead: The ten of spades

West needs to pick a safe lead. Leading from a queen would be wrong because the opponents likely have the ace and the king. The ten of spades is a safe lead.

The play:

The declarer wins the opening lead and cashes two hearts to discover the bad split. South cashes the top two diamonds and clubs before running spades. East cannot guard both diamonds and hearts and discards all his diamonds. South seeing this, discards all his hearts except for the queen which is the entry for the good diamond. South makes the contract on the squeeze play.

The result: Seven notrump making seven for 2220

Note: Whenever a squeeze play is carried out, the declarer must rectify the count which means keeping the loser count to one. Since the contract is seven notrump, it can only be made if there is one loser. With the bad break in hearts, declarer has one loser. He can only count twelve tricks but needs thirteen. A successful squeeze play will eliminate that loser.