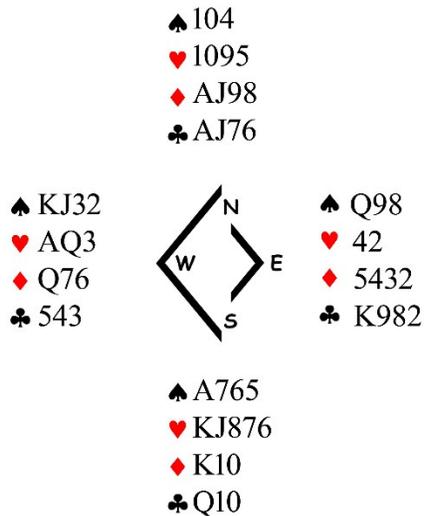


268. Three-Card Major Limit Raise

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

--Both Vulnerable--

A limit raise of a major, a jump to three of the major, shows four-card support, therefore with a three-card limit raise, one must bid forcing No Trump then three of the major.

The bidding:

South, with 13 HCP's, opens One Heart. North has a three-card limit raise and responds One No Trump, forcing one round. South is not strong enough to rebid Spades, so he rebids his two-card Club suit. North then jumps to Three Hearts.

South declines the invitation because even if he does not have a wasted Queen, he does not have the 14 points needed to accept an invite.

The Play:

West leads top of nothing in Clubs and the card looks small enough to be bottom of something, so declarer takes the finesse. East wins the King, and hardly thinks that declarer would duck holding a total of eight Clubs which is what declarer would have to give West a singleton Club. However, a Club return is in order so as to not open another suit for the declarer. East wants to keep a low defensive footprint.

Declarer wins his queen and wants to use the limited transportation to dummy to enjoy the Clubs so he leads a small trump to dummy. West wins the Queen and exits his last Club. Declarer pitches a Spade.

Most defenders will switch to the suit declarer first pitches which is an interesting fact that declarer should keep in mind when he makes his first discard. However, West is not fooled easily and still does not want to switch to a Spade and when he wins the trump Ace, he exits his third trump.

Dummy wins the Ten and gets another Spade pitch. Declarer realizes West led from a dead suit. The Law of Restricted choice suggests that he led from his dead suit because he was restricted to do so. All the other suits likely have holdings he did not want to lead from.

Therefore declarer plays a small Diamond from dummy to the King and then the Ten to the Jack and pitches his last Spade on the Diamond Ace.

This time, it clearly would have worked if West switched to the suit declarer discarded, but KJxx is a holding that is difficult from which to lead into declarer's possible waiting AQ. Declarer makes an overtrick for +170.