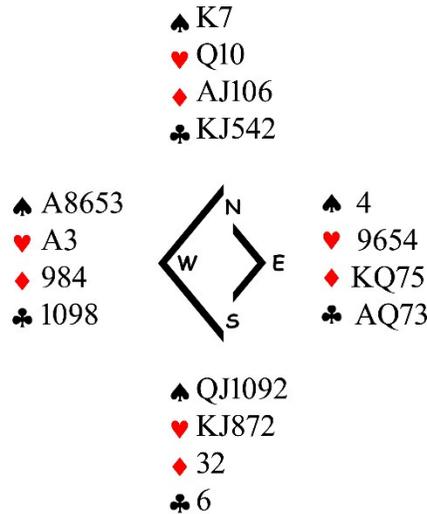


289. NMF Implication

Published on page 12 of the Trail Times, Thursday May 26th, 2016



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

--North South Vulnerable--

The bidding:

North opens One Diamond with the intention of rebidding Two Clubs. Partner bids One Spade, the higher ranking of two equal-length suits. It is incumbent upon North to rebid 1NT. If he rebids Two Clubs, partner cannot bid Two Hearts because that would be Fourth Suit Forcing to game. North rebids One No Trump and South bids Two Hearts.

The implication from using New Minor Forcing is that Two Hearts shows Hearts and less than 10 points. With 10 points or more, South would have bid Two Clubs, the new minor.

With equal length in the majors, North goes back to Spades since Spades could be longer.

The Opening Lead:

West leads the unbid suit, the Club Ten. A trump lead and a shortness lead are both wrong because West wants to shorten declarer's trump not his own. Every time declarer ruffs in the long trump hand, West gains a trump trick. This is called a forcing defense. A Diamond lead may also be right but that will be led later.

The Play:

East wins the opening lead. He absolutely cannot continue Clubs because of the directionality of the suit. Clubs must be played by anyone but East, so East exits a trump. West ducks to break communication in trump between dummy and declarer.

A Heart is played, and West wins the first round of Hearts with the Ace so the Ten in dummy blocks the suit. West cashes the Spade Ace to exhaust dummy of trump and continues a club, which declarer ruffs. West now has one more trump than the long trump hand. South plays a small Heart to the Ten. If he overtakes the Ten in his Hand, East's Heart Nine will be promoted to a winner.

Now he is in dummy. He exits the Diamond Jack and East wins the Queen. East plays a Heart because he cannot play a Club because he will set up the fifth Club (with the Diamond Ace as the entry) in dummy, and he cannot lead a Diamond into the Ace and Ten.

West ruffs the Hearts and plays another Club. Declarer ruffs with his penultimate trump. He plays the third round of Hearts. West ruffs and continues a club which declarer has to ruff with his last trump. West will ruff in with his last trump and exit a Diamond.

The result:

In high cards, Declarer will lose one Spade, one Heart, one Diamond and one Club. Three ruffs by West will set the contract by two for +200 for East and West.