

291 . Fourth Suit Forcing

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	♠ --- ♥ AQ32 ♦ KQ832 ♣ J1063		
♠ A743 ♥ J9854 ♦ 1074 ♣ K		♠ Q652 ♥ --- ♦ A965 ♣ 98542	
	♠ KJ1098 ♥ K1076 ♦ J ♣ AQ7		

E	S	W	N
		P	1 ♦
P	1 ♠	P	2 ♣
P	2 ♥	P	3 ♥
P	4 ♥	All Pass	

--North South Vulnerable--

In a previous column, the fourth suit could not be bid because the player did not have enough for game. Whenever one bids the fourth suit when the opponents are quiet, one is forcing partner to game.

The bidding:

North opens his longer minor, and South responds with his longer major. North rebids Two Clubs and South puts the game force on by bidding Two Hearts.

He actually has Hearts, but this bid says nothing about Hearts. South is telling North that he also has an opener, and an opener opposite an opener will make game in No Trump or in a major.

Now North bids Hearts showing four Hearts. When the opener bids three suits, it implies shortness in the remaining suit, Spades. This does not thrill South that much because South has a lot of stuff in Spades. South raises Hearts to game.

Opening Lead:

There are three nots. Not spades, a suit bid by declarer. Not trump, partner is void and this will help declarer. Not a club because a singleton King can win a finesse. By default, the lead must be a diamond. East and West are playing MUD (middle-up-down) leads from three rag cards. West leads the Diamond 7, the middle card and will follow with the Ten (Up) and then the Four (down)

The Play:

East wins the Ace and switches to a Club. Declarer goes up with the Ace because he can pitch two Clubs on the Top Diamonds. When he traps what must be West's singleton King, he no longer needs to pitch clubs. He leads a small trump to dummy and gets the bad news. As soon as one finds out bad news about a bad trump break, one stops drawing trump.

He cashes the top two Diamonds in dummy and pitches a Spade and a Club. Declarer leaves dummy with a small Club to the Queen which West ruffs. Now West has the same length in trump. West exits a small Spade and a Diamond is pitched from dummy and East ducks with the Queen. Declarer wins the Spade Nine. He ruffs a Spade with a small trump and then ruffs a Diamond with the Heart King and ruffs another Spade with the Heart Three. Declarer plays the Club Jack and pitches a Spade. West ruffs and leads a trump. Declarer cashes the last two Hearts and the Club Ten for the tenth trick making the contract for +620.