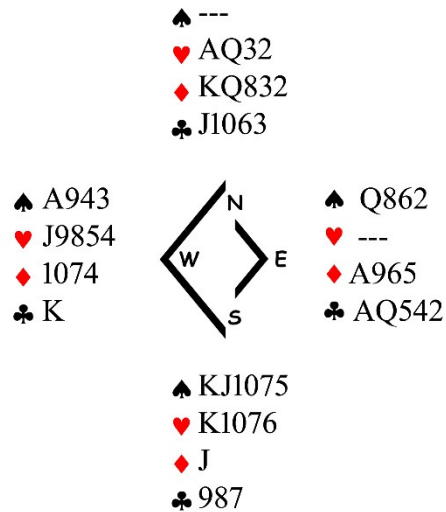


# 292. Fourth Suit Forcing Revisited

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

--North South Vulnerable--

This hand occurred at the Thursday evening Trail Duplicate bridge club.

## The bidding:

North opens One Diamond and South skips his four-card Heart suit to bid a five-card Spade suit. North replies Two Clubs. South wants to bid Two Hearts but cannot because it is Fourth Suit Forcing to game. Therefore South rebids his Spade suit. Ideally it should be a six-card Spade suit, but ideal bidding cannot happen if ideal hands have not been dealt.

South is not strong enough to show his hand adequately and neither is North. In order for North to show his Heart suit, he needs a hand with the points of a reverse, an Ace above a good opener.

However, it is a diseased hand and declarer will have trouble making anything.

### **Opening Lead:**

West leads the unbid suit, the Heart five.

### **The Play:**

East ruffs the opening lead. East can see the Heart two and three in dummy and the Heart six played by declarer so he knows partner has five and declarer must have four.

East cashes the Club Ace because the King is not in dummy and partner's King falls. He cashes the Club Queen and Diamond Ace and then leads a Club. West ruffs and returns a second Heart which East ruffs. East plays a fourth Club and declarer pitches a Heart. West ruffs and plays a third Heart and East ruffs. East exits his fifth Club, declarer ruffs with the ten and West overruffs with his Ace. Declarer draws the last trump in East and West's hands and claims.

### **The result:**

Declarer will lose six ruffs, one Diamond and two Clubs for down four and -400.

South did however, make a mistake on the auction. When partner, North, shows a two-suited hand, South must simply pick one of the suits with six to nine points. South should pass Two Clubs.

Two Clubs will be down one if East leads a small Club. A trump lead is called for because declarer will often try a cross-ruff in a misfit. If the cross-ruff is cut down, the defense will get their high card tricks they deserve.