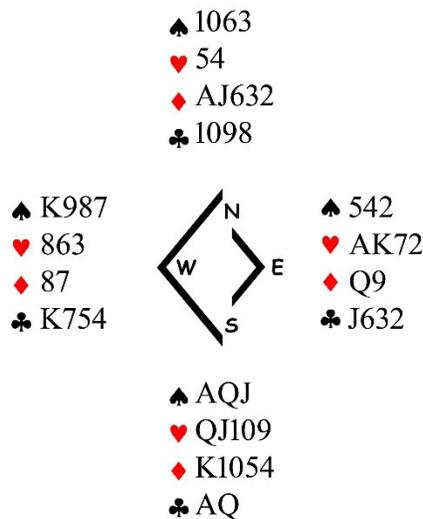


299. Weak Inverted Minors-Find 3NT

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W	N	E	S
		P	1 ♦
P	3 ♦	P	3NT
All Pass			

--East West Vulnerable--

We have seen how one bids stoppers over a simple raise of a minor showing 10 or more points. When partner jumps to three of the minor, showing less than ten points, there is no room to investigate as there should not be. Partner is weak and likely has little help outside his long diamond suit. Whatever he has is gravy. Therefore if partner takes it upon himself to go alone and bid 3NT he is doing so on the stoppers he sees in his own hand. He does have a very strong hand with side-suits sufficiently stopped.

The bidding:

As a player will open One No Trump with a good 14 to 17, a player will also open Two No Trump with a good 19 to 21. South has 19 with a couple of tens and a doubleton. However, there is no five-card suit and South needs partner to have entries to

take Spade and Club finesses and to play the Diamond suit. Therefore, he opens One Diamond.

When partner jumps to Three Diamonds to show a weak hand and five or more Diamonds with no four-card major, South takes a shot at Three No Trump. There should be a couple of Diamond entries.

Opening Lead:

West does not make a risky lead from a weak four-card suit with a solitary honour. Give the suit an additional fifth card, the suit would have been led because there is more of a chance getting tricks from small cards in a five-card suit than a four-card suit. West has no five-card suit and leads the Heart eight, top of nothing.

The Play:

East wins the Heart King and switches to a Club. Declarer ducks, and West wins the King and returns the Club four, his original fourth best. East ducks and South wins the Ace.

Declarer has nine tricks, if the Spade finesse wins. He cannot cash all of his Diamonds because Diamonds are the entries to take two Spade finesses. Unfortunately, the Spade finesse loses. East and West will win one Spade, two Hearts and three Clubs for down two and -100. This will be a terrible board because there will be several players making an ill-advised fourth best Spade or Club lead which allows Three No Trump to make.