

330. Using the Feature which made Partner Bid

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♠ Q10762		
♥ 432		
♦ ---		
♣ 98652		
♠ KJ853		♠ 4
♥ 65		♥ K87
♦ A9743		♦ KJ862
♣ K		♣ QJ74
		♠ A9
		♥ A QJ109
		♦ Q105
		♣ A103

S	W	N	E
1NT	2 ♠	Dbl	P
P	3 ♦	P	P
3 ♥	All Pass		

--East West Vulnerable--

This is a very interesting hand that occurred at the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club. We play bridge every Monday at noon at the Warfield Hall. A lesson starts half an hour before game time.

The bidding:

I was playing North, and South opens One No Trump with a five-card major. I would have treated South's hand as an 18-point hand, opening One Heart and then jumping in No Trump.

West was not playing DONT so he had to overcall Two Spades. I doubled for penalty, and West tried Diamonds. Neither my partner nor I could double, so South bid Three Hearts.

Opening Lead: West led the Diamond Ace, but I would have led a trump. People do not lead trump enough, but when the opponents are in trump contract, after a very competitive auction, a trump lead can cut down short-hand ruffs.

The Play:

Declarer ruffs the opening lead, plays a Spade to the Ace, ruffs another Diamond, plays a Club to the Ace and ruffs the last Diamond. It is important to take advantage of the best feature, a void, of partner hand.

Declarer exits a Club, and when declarer regains the lead, he plays the Heart Ace then the Heart Queen. When he regains the lead again, he draws the last trump and claims.

The Result:

Declarer loses one Spade, one Heart, no Diamonds and two Clubs for +140.

With a trump opening lead, declarer will be down one for -50.