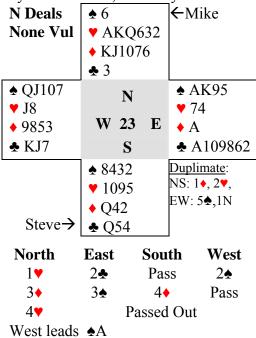
by Steve Moese; edited by Mike Purcell



Tuesday January 6, 2009. Tuesday Evening Open Pairs, Mr. Bob VeVerka, Director, Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070

Two times in one session we have another 6-5 opportunity. We wonder to whom do we owe such largesse?

## The Bidding

Mike and I play Precision but our auction would match most standard or 2/1 approaches. The only inference is that North is limited to 15 HCP.

North's hand has 13 HCP, all working, in a 3.5 loser hand (1♠, 1.5♠, and 1♣). That means at worst we could be only down 2 in a 5 level contract. NS bid slowly to avoid tempting EW to bid 4S. While a close decision, North believes 4♥ will likely make and defense against an EW spade game seems poor. South raised ♦ to locate an honor, safe knowing either partner would correct to ♥ when right. This can make North's 4♥ bid sound like a misfit to EW. East could not be sure West had values for their bid. A new

suit in response to an overcall is nonforcing and when spades, might be weak.

## The Play

East's ♠A won and the continuation was ruffed by declarer. Declarer led the ♦6 revealing the ♦A. The ♠2 to West's ♠K was quickly followed by a ♦ ruff by East, but that was the end of the hand. Declarer ruffed the black suit return, drew trumps and ran good ♦.

 $4 \vee N + 4 + 420$  won 7 of 8 Match Points

Bd 33	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MP			3	5.5	4	5.5	0.5	7	8	2	0.5	
Score			-170	-100	-150	-100	-450	420	590	-400	-450	

## **Post Mortem**

Here's another example where hand evaluation based on point count alone fails when distributions become exciting. North bid hoping for a make, found a partner with 4 HCP and a hand distribution that let the game make. If North tests trumps before •, he makes 5 on this defense.

Notice that a different opening lead and continuation can set NS 2 tricks. East leads the singleton A, then switches to a low A. The A from West will let East ruff and tells East to return a A for a A for a A from West will let East ruff and tells East to return a A for a A from West will let East ruff and tells East to return a A for a A for a A for a A for a A from West will let East ruff and tells East to return a A for a A from West will let East ruff and tells East to return a A for a A for

## **Learning Pointers:**

- 1) On shapely hands count tricks and losers not just HCP, then decide if partner can have enough cover cards (the honors you are missing) to enable game or slam.
- 2) When opponents own spades you might need to bid tentatively so you don't induce them to bid their making game.