

01/25/11 Annual Meeting follows regular game

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ K Q 4 2		♠ —
♥ Q J		♥ 9 8 7 5 2
♦ A J 5 4 3 2		♦ 6
♣ 10		♣ A K Q 6 5 4 3

♠ A J 9 5
♥ A K 4 3
♦ 10 9
♣ 8 7 2

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♠; EW 1♦

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

1. Fourth suit forcing -- 4+ H; 13+ total points

Auction by GIB -- If you play 2/1 forcing to game, you must respond 1♥ -- yuk!

4♥ by East

Contract	Scores		Matchpoints		Pairs
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	
4♥ E	100		5		1 4 vs 6
6♣ E	100		5		1 5 vs 1
3♣ E	100		5		1 6 vs 3
3♣ E		150	3		3 2 vs 2
3NT E		600	2		4 7 vs 5
3NT W		630	0.5		5.5 1 vs 8
3NT W		630	0.5		5.5 3 vs 4

My methods for 1♦ - 2♣ work well; I'll write them up soon. Treat that as a 4-card heart suit: this is a club hand, unless *West* bids hearts! Here's a start to the auction:

1♦ - 2♣; 2♠ [shows at least 4=5 shape, no limits on values] - 3♣ [non-forcing]

Pass is now a fine call, with the misfit. 3NT is also reasonable, hoping for ♥10xx or the like in East.

3♥ [fourth suit forcing] could lead to 4♣, but is OK this time: East bids 3NT with all those tricks and hearts. An alternative auction, if 2♠ is a reverse and responder carries responsibility for major suit fits:

1♦ - 2♣; 2♦ [long but limited] - 2♥; 2NT - 3NT

There are 8 tricks on top at 3NT, and a ninth available in either major, since the ♥10 comes down. It comes down to avoiding two diamond losers. If North leads a low diamond (the correct card, in the wrong suit), the hand is over. A spade lead also cedes the ninth trick - a tenth, if South takes the Ace. Better is the ♥10 and a switch to the ♦10. A count of tricks produces the winning play: finesse the Jack, just in case, and win the second round. The only chance is exactly what happens: North has no entry, and ninth trick comes in safely, after cashing the first eight and leading a heart. The pair in 3♣ making five deserved a better score, but their luck was out. Mix up the N/S cards just a little, and 3NT would be down one on a heart lead. - Pete Matthews