

Phillip Alder Bridge

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Internet messages from bridge clubs

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

Dealer: East Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
			1♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	4NT
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ??

E-mail has been a boon to bridge clubs. They can easily send announcements to members, and make the missives more interesting by including deals. Rich Waugh, manager of the Bridge Ace club in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., does that.

This deal arose in a duplicate. What do you think of the auction? Waugh thinks that South should not bid four hearts, because he might miss a slam. Waugh says that South should start with a takeout double. There is something in that, but if North insists on playing in spades, it might work out badly. Don't put a solid eight-card suit down in the dummy.

After two passes, East rebid four notrump to show a minor two-suiter with longer clubs than diamonds. He will usually be 4=6, but 5=6 (or 5=7!) is possible.

Then, when South persevered with five hearts, Waugh's partner bid six clubs, which was doubled by South and went down one. Waugh comments: "Six clubs looks like a crazy bid. The doubleton heart in West's hand should be a warning not to continue on to slam. He probably should double five hearts to warn me against continuing. But, on this day, partner was crazy like a fox because *five hearts was cold!*" (His italics.) Was five hearts cold?

In the real world, yes, but not double-dummy. The defense can go: spade to East's ace, club to West's king, spade ruff by East. I sympathize with six clubs because West knows his side has a double fit. Give East 2=1=4=6 and six clubs would make.