

## Hand 34

### BOTH VULNERABLE EAST DEALS

South

♠ K J 5 3  
♥ A 8 5 4  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ K 10

East **PASSES** in first seat. I have a very close decision to open. I'm going to **PASS** mainly because my systemic choice would have to be one diamond. If I had three diamonds to the king and no king of clubs plus a ten spot more, I might open. Say the hand were:

♠ K J 9 3  
♥ A 10 8 5  
♦ K 10 8  
♣ 5 4

I would be willing to open but would not insist. Any time you have a light hand, you must consider how the auction will go. If you can predict difficulties, you should pass. If you have easy rebids, go ahead and open. If you open the example hand above with one diamond, you will be ready for any response except two clubs.

The hand I am actually holding has too many flaws for a light opening so I do pass. West opens **ONE CLUB** and East responds **ONE HEART**. If my spades were better, I would overcall. Perhaps I should anyway.

I **PASS** and opener **PASSES** also.

Alex reopens with **DOUBLE**. I have a good hand but I respect that Alex is just reopening. **ONE SPADE** is enough. West

**Hand 34**

J 5 3  
8 5 4  
8 4  
10

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makes a delayed raise to TWO HEARTS passed back to me.  
I compete with TWO SPADES and all pass.

West leads the ten of spades.

**BOTH VULNERABLE  
EAST DEALS**

♠ A 7 4 2  
♥ 10  
♦ Q 6 5 2  
♣ A 8 6 4



♠ K J 5 3  
♥ A 8 5 4  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ K 10

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|             | ♦ Q 6 5 2    | Pass        | Pass         |
| 1 ♣         | Pass         | 1 ♥         | Pass         |
| Pass        | Double       | Pass        | 1 ♠          |
| 2 ♥         | Pass         | Pass        | 2 ♣          |
| Pass        | Pass         | Pass        |              |

**LEAD: ♠ 10**

This is a good dummy. It has both four spades and a singleton heart. Since Alex could have doubled with three spades and two hearts or with fewer values, I am most appreciative of what he has. I also note that even with this dummy, four spades is extremely marginal. Two spades is high enough.

The easy and reflex play here is to let the spade ride around to my hand for a free finesse.

Since the obvious is so often wrong, I consider the consequences.

My play is certainly going to include ruffing hearts in dummy. If I duck the opening lead, it means one of my heart ruffs will be with dummy's ace of spades. That will promote a sure trick for East-West.

Strange as it feels, I think it better to win dummy's ace declining the finesse. Anyway, I can't imagine that West has led from the queen. If needed, I can take the finesse later so I won't lose anything.

I start with my plan playing the heart ace, a heart ruff. Club king and another heart ruff. Club ace, and a club ruff in my hand. When I lead my last heart, West follows and I get to ruff with dummy's last trump.

This leaves me with the KJ of spades and three diamonds. I lead dummy's last club and with East showing out I am able to get my jack of spades in. Ten tricks.

### COMPLETE HAND

|           |           |           |  |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
|           | ♠ A 7 4 2 |           |  |
|           | ♥ 10      |           |  |
|           | ♦ Q 6 5 2 |           |  |
|           | ♣ A 8 6 4 |           |  |
| ♠ 10 9 8  | N         | ♠ Q 6     |  |
| ♥ K J 7 2 | W         | ♥ Q 9 6 3 |  |
| ♦ A 10    | E         | ♦ K J 7 3 |  |
| ♣ Q J 9 3 | S         | ♣ 7 5 2   |  |
|           | ♠ K J 5 3 |           |  |
|           | ♥ A 8 5 4 |           |  |
|           | ♦ 9 8 4   |           |  |
|           | ♣ K 10    |           |  |

### FURTHER ANALYSIS

Note South's conservative approach in the auction. Few

things are more  
have partner han

In the play, if  
the defense can  
Declarer will

1. ♠ J
2. ♥ A
3. ♥ ruff
4. ♣ K
5. ♥ ruff
6. ♣ A
7. ♣ ruff
8. ♥ ruff
9. ♣ 8

This is the pos  
of clubs: Declar

- ♠ 9 8
- ♥ —
- ♦ A 10
- ♣ Q

On the club  
declarer from so  
ing a diamond,  
tricks only.



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KJ of spades and three diamonds. with East showing out I am able . Ten tricks.

### COMPLETE HAND

4 2

5 2

6 4

- ♠ Q 6
- ♥ Q 9 6 3
- ♦ K J 7 3
- ♣ 7 5 2

5 3

5 4

4

### ANALYSIS

ve approach in the auction. Few

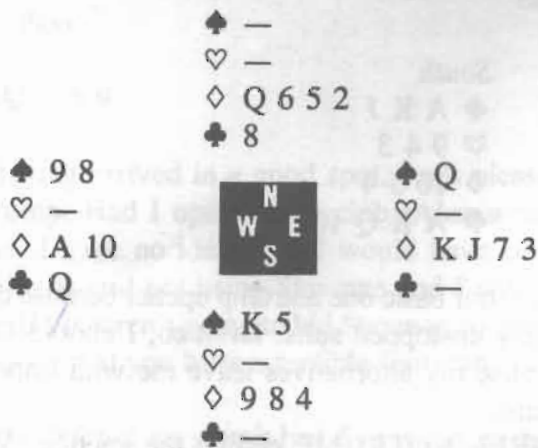
things are more annoying and expensive than to balance and have partner hang you.

In the play, if declarer lets the spade come around to his jack, the defense can make him pay for it.

Declarer will play:

1. ♠ J\*
2. ♥ A
3. ♥ ruff
4. ♣ K
5. ♥ ruff
6. ♣ A
7. ♣ ruff
8. ♥ ruff with the ace
9. ♣ 8

This is the position at trick nine with dummy leading the eight of clubs: Declarer has won the first eight tricks.



On the club lead, East will ruff with the queen keeping declarer from scoring his little trump. South can delay by pitching a diamond, but with spades as they are, declarer gets nine tricks only.