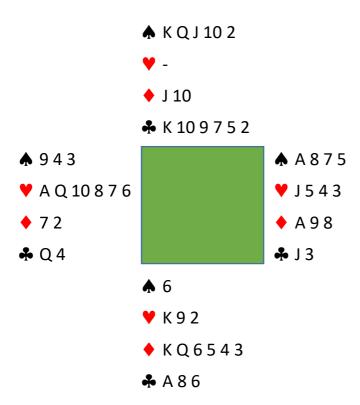
Sometimes more is Less - Norman's Notes No. 46

Bury had a good win in their final Summer League match, beating Ipswich and Kesgrave - probably the strongest team - 48-32. Board 18 had a significant place in that victory.

Dealer East. NS vulnerable.



NS have excellent minor suit fits, but EW are not going to be prevented from bidding hearts. But how high? This was the bidding at one table (Bury EW):

West North Eas	t South
Pas 2 ♥ 2 ♠ ¹ pas Pass 4 ♣ 4 ♥	ss 3 ♦ pass
Pass 5	End

¹ 'Double' is an alternative bid.

West led a low heart (partner must have the King, mustn't he?) and after considerable thought declarer ruffed in dummy. He then tried - successfully - to discard two hearts on spades, but when ◆J was then led, East jumped in with the ace and was able to give partner a spade ruff. (Declarer could not afford to ruff high). At the other table of the two-table match, South received the helpful ♥A lead against 5♦. Contract made. Total score: +800.

In the other match, the Ipswich and Kesgrave North-South scored +150 for 4 ◆ +1, but their East-West pair judged to bid to 5 ♥ and that was doubled and four light for -800. Total score to Bury: +650. (Three off seems possible, and if 5 ♦ is going to make, -500 is slightly better for EW).

Readers may note that to be (almost) sure of defeating $5 \blacklozenge$, West should not lead a heart. Difficult. And North-South's unbeatable game contract is $5 \clubsuit$, not $5 \spadesuit$. It might be reached if North doubles West's weak $2 \blacktriangledown$ overcall.