

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.

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

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):

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>

		<i>Pass</i>	1 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠ ¹	<i>pass</i>	3 ♦
<i>Pass</i>	4 ♣	4 ♥	<i>pass</i>
<i>Pass</i>	5 ♦	<i>X</i>	<i>End</i>

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 $\spadesuit J$ 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 $\heartsuit A$ lead against $5\spadesuit$. Contract made. Total score: +800.

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

Readers may note that to be (almost) sure of defeating $5\spadesuit$, 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 $2\heartsuit$ overcall.