

Learning Points – Bidding One More When Black vs. Red

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W Deals

♠ K93

NS Vul

♥ K8753

♦ 96

Mike

♣ 1054

Steve

♠ QJ1054

N

♠ 86

♥ AQJ9

W 28 E

♥ 106

♦ 10

S

♦ AQ87543

♣ Q32

♣ 97

♠ A72

Deep Finesse:

♥ 42

NS: 1N, 2♥,

♦ KJ2

1♦, 3♣

♣ AKJ86

Saturday Afternoon October 25, 2008. Grand National Pairs Flight B Qualifiers.

Favorable vulnerability gives you an additional way to improve your matchpoint score.

The Bidding

Some 2/1 Forcing bidders might consider passing West's hand, however 9 cards in the majors make initial action a better choice. East's 1NT is of the forcing variety. South's overcall is natural and near the top of the range. West completes the hand description showing a minimum shapely opener. East corrects to spades for the known 7 card fit. South pushes one last time

to 3♣ and West decides vulnerability is in our favor and bids on.

The Play

With partner bidding ♣ twice the opening lead is a no-brainer. Of course the spot card you choose should be consistent with your count signals to partner. South's ♣K wins the trick and

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1N	2♣
2♥	Pass	2♠	3♣
3♠!!		Passed Out	
North leads ♣10			

South lays the ♣A on the table hoping for a doubleton signal from North. When North said otherwise, South switched to the ♥4. Declarer played ♥A and then ♣Q to pitch the losing ♥ from dummy. North covered West's ♥Q, ruffed low in dummy. A spade allowed North to give South a ♥ ruff, but North South could only collect 5 tricks.

3♣ down 1 for -50 was worth 6.5 matchpoints out of 8 (81%).

Post Mortem

Law of Total Trick mavens will have problems explaining this hand. There are 16 trumps predicting 16 tricks. East West's best suit is ♦ not ♠. 8 ♦ cards plus 8 ♣ cards equal 16 trumps. East West made 8 tricks in their lesser trump suit and North South can make 9 in ♣. The Law is one trick short on this hand!

Since North South can make 9 tricks, East West should only be able to make 7. Partner made 8.

If you insist to count the hand as 15 Trumps, that's up to you. Playing in an inferior suit is not part of the Law of Total Tricks, but it can work when certain conditions are met.

What really matters here for East West is the intermediate strength of the key suits and the known location of the ♣AK. Since texture and position are both favorable, the decision to bid on the 3♠ is appropriately competitive – and led to a strong result.