

Learning Points – Coming Alive with 6-5 Part II

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N Deals

♠ 6

←Mike

None Vul

♥ AKQ632

♦ KJ1076

♣ 3

Tuesday January 6, 2009. Tuesday Evening Open Pairs, Mr. Bob VeVerka, Director, Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070

♠ QJ107	N	♠ AK95
♥ J8		♥ 74
♦ 9853	W 23 E	♦ A
♣ KJ7	S	♣ A109862

Two times in one session we have another 6-5 opportunity. We wonder to whom do we owe such largesse?

The Bidding

Mike and I play Precision but our auction would match most standard or 2/1 approaches. The only inference is that North is limited to 15 HCP.

♠ 8432

♥ 1095

♦ Q42

♣ Q54

Duplimate:

NS: 1♦, 2♥,

EW: 5♠, 1N

Steve→

North's hand has 13 HCP, all working, in a 3.5 loser hand (1♠, 1.5♦, and 1♣). That means at worst we could be only down 2 in a 5 level contract. NS bid slowly to avoid tempting EW to bid 4S. While a close decision, North believes 4♥ will likely make and defense against an EW spade game seems poor. South raised ♦ to locate an honor, safe knowing either partner would correct to ♥ when right. This can make North's 4♥ bid sound like a misfit to EW. East could not be sure West had values for their bid. A new suit in response to an overcall is nonforcing and when spades, might be weak.

North	East	South	West
1♥	2♣	Pass	2♠
3♦	3♠	4♦	Pass
4♥		Passed Out	

West leads ♠A

The Play

East's ♠A won and the continuation was ruffed by declarer. Declarer led the ♦6 revealing the ♦A. The ♣2 to West's ♣K was quickly followed by a ♦ ruff by East, but that was the end of the hand. Declarer ruffed the black suit return, drew trumps and ran good ♦.

4♥ N + 4 +420 won 7 of 8 Match Points.

Bd 33	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MP	---	---	3	5.5	4	5.5	0.5	7	8	2	0.5	---
Score	---	---	-170	-100	-150	-100	-450	420	590	-400	-450	---

Post Mortem

Here's another example where hand evaluation based on point count alone fails when distributions become exciting. North bid hoping for a make, found a partner with 4 HCP and a hand distribution that let the game make. If North tests trumps before ♦, he makes 5 on this defense.

Notice that a different opening lead and continuation can set NS 2 tricks. East leads the singleton ♦A, then switches to a low ♠. The ♦3 from West will let East ruff and tells East to return a ♣ for a 2nd ♦ ruff. 5 defensive tricks off the top. Note that in this field, a -100 would have scored 5 MPs. Funny things these 6-5 hands. Again, Law of Total Tricks says 18 Trumps (9♥+9♣) but we found 21 tricks 10♥ + 11♠ (19 with best defense).

Learning Pointers:

- 1) On shapely hands count tricks and losers not just HCP, then decide if partner can have enough cover cards (the honors you are missing) to enable game or slam.
- 2) When opponents own spades you might need to bid tentatively so you don't induce them to bid their making game.