

Learning Points – Which Part Score?

by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

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Bidding LEVEL: Basic/Intermediate

East Deals
EW Vul
MPs

♠ J85
♥ 105
♦ 1065
♣ K8743

Steve

♠ K742
♥ 42
♦ J83
♣ QJ52

N
W 22 E
S

♠ 63
♥ AK873
♦ KQ97
♣ A9

Ron

♠ AQ109
♥ QJ96
♦ A42
♣ 106

EW: 2NT, 3♦, 3♥

East	South	West	North
1♣ ¹	Double ²	Redouble ³	Pass
1♥	Pass	1N	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

South leads ♣10

1= 16+ HCP any shape 2= Majors
3= 5-7 HCP any shape

Tuesday Evening May 18, 2010, Club Championship. Mr. Michael Lipp Director. Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070. My partner is Ron Babcock. We play Precision.

Holding the greater share of HCP, is a 5-2 ♥ fit better than NT?

The Bidding

Our Precision auction landed us in 2♥ (NT was also in play). Natural bidding will likely find either NT or ♥ as well. The Precision auction was more revealing as South advertised values and majors.

Standard/or 2/IGF Auctions:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass
-or-			
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2N ¹	Pass	Pass/3♥	All Pass

1= Semi balanced 15-17 HCP Invite

The Play

23 HCP and no play for 3NT means this hand will be a battle of partials. NT is possible but here ♥s might be more likely to produce overtricks. Declarer counts 3 top winners and 4 losers. 3rd round ruffs are available in East's hand. Usually ruffing in the long trump hand gains no tricks unless a dummy reversal is possible. Dummy's trumps are too weak to reverse.

Since South showed the majors, the lead might be from a shortness. Time will tell if it's a singleton or doubleton. The ♣J fetched the ♣K from North won by East's ♣A. A small ♦ caused South to part with the ♦A and a ♣ continued to the ♣J in dummy. Declarer cashes 2 more ♦s and leads a small ♠ toward the ♠K. South ducks. East will score 3 trump tricks in due time. 9 tricks +140 for EW was worth 5.5 of 7 MPs.

NS Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MPs		3.5	5.5	1	2	5.5	3.5	7		0
Score		120	140	-110	-100	140	120	150		-200

Post Mortem

Opening 1NT with a 5 card major can help when the shape is 5332. With 5422, it's better to open the major and rebid the 4 card suit. Interestingly East's two doubletons appear to contribute no extra tricks to the ♥ contract. East's ♦ length is what led to extra tricks – the same tricks are available in NT! In fact the small ♠ doubleton in East serves as a stopper in the ♥ contract. In NT, NS will score several ♠s and hold EW to 8 tricks. Notice if South's spades are in North's hand, 1 NT might go down, while 2♥ will likely make.

Learning Points

1. Consider a Major suit partial when a 5-2 fit is known and the opener has a 2nd suit.
2. Avoid opening 1NT with a 5 card major and 5422 shape unless most of your HCP are in the 2 card suits. Avoid entirely if 54 in the majors.

Key Words: 5-2 trump fit, Major or NT partial