

Learning Points – Use All Your Chances in a Partial

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Declarer Play Level: Intermediate

North Deals
Both Vul
MPs

♠ 632
♥ 7432
♦ 72
♣ K732

♠ Q	N	♠ J75
♥ J95	W 13 E	♥ KQ8
♦ AQ108	S	♦ KJ954
♣ AQ985		♣ 104

♠ AK10984 NS 1♠
♥ A106 EW 4♣ 4♦
♦ 63
♣ J6

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
East leads ♥9			

Thursday Club Game, August 26, 2010 Mrs. Annease Comer, Director. Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070 . Mike Ma is my partner. We play Precision.

Just because the opponents have 25 HCP between them doesn't mean you should fold up your tent and get out of their way. Patience and inferences from the bidding help declarer use all chances on this deal.

The Bidding

South makes a standard opening bid. While West does not have 4♥s, West can support the 3 other suits and makes a sound takeout double. Over an opponent's takeout double partner's raises are typically weak. The idea is to compete and take away space from our opponent's auction. East passes (more on that later). South sees no reason to bid again and West, having fully bid the hand the 1st time, passes.

The Play

The ♥ lead is a safe attack. South can count 2 tricks in ♠s and 1 in ♥s. South has to work to find 5 more tricks. Where can they come from? ♠s might contribute 4 tricks. Likewise the ♣K might be sitting over West's ♣A – West did make a takeout double after all. With 9 trumps the likely split is 3-1 (50%) followed by 2-2 (40%). West should be short in ♠s for the takeout double. Playing the ♠A might collect a useful card from West before using up the ♣K (the only likely entry to North's hand). Note if East has ♠QJx we fail because we cannot get to dummy twice for the double finesse in trumps.

With that in mind, South wins the ♥A and cashes the ♠A seeing the ♠Q fall from West. Restricted Choice makes it twice as likely that East now holds the ♠J. South leads the ♣J (feigning the finesse for the ♣Q) and West captures the ♣A to continue ♥s. While the defense takes 4 more tricks in the red suits for defensive book, declarer ruffs in on the 7th trick and leads a ♣ to the ♣K. A trump finesse through East follows. 2♣ making 2 was +110 worth 7 of 7 Match Points.

Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MPs	3	3	6	7	6					3	0	3
Score	-130	-130	-110	110	-130					-130	-150	-130

Post Mortem

East fell from grace on this deal. After partner's takeout double, East's hand is worth a single jump response or a free bid at the 3-level. If East bids 3♦ at their 2nd turn then there would be no tale to tell. How can East tell? East should envision partner with 10+ HCP and 1=4=4=4 shape. That means EW have a 9+ card fit in ♦s. Holding a good 9 HCP and a 5-card ♦ suit is enough to bid 3♦.

For more information on Restricted Choice see:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Lessons/20081006%20GNT%20Bidding%20a%2028%20HCP%20Slam.pdf>

After an opponent's takeout double, support with support. Raises should be weaker than if RHO had not doubled. What matters more than HCP is the length of your trump support. With 4 trumps, North would raise to 3♠.

Learning Points

1. Preempt after their double with support. Use the Law of Total Tricks to guide you – bid to the level of your trump count when not vulnerable.
2. Declaring an impossible hand? Look for small advantages that might just add up to success. Plan your play before you play your plan.
3. Restricted choice makes sense – know it and use it!

Keywords: Raises preempt after takeout doubles, Suit Split missing 4 cards, Restricted Choice