

Learning Points – Tales From the NAP 2

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Declarer Play Level: Intermediate

East Deals
NS Vul
MPs

♠ K104
♥ 87
♦ KJ973
♣ 1042

Mike

Cincinnati Sectional and North American Pair Qualifier - Session 1 of 2 sessions. My partner is Mike Purcell. We play a 2/1 version of Precision.

♠		♠
♥	N	♥
♦	W 14 E	♦
♣	S	♣

The Bidding

Precision bids all strong hand beginning with 1♣. Standard bidders will likely open 2N. The final contract will be either 3N or 4♣. The best Match Point result is 3N if we are making the same number of tricks in either strain. South judged the 5=3=2=3 shape as limiting for a ♠ contract. North would have to have a wildly distributional hand to make a slam possible with only 6-7 HCP. Best to arrive at the right spot early and hope the opponents are less informed.

♠ AQJ75
♥ QJ10
♦ AQ
♣ K75

Steve

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♣ ¹	1♥	Dbl ²
Pass	3N	All Pass	

The Play

Declarer can count 4 losers and 9-10 winners. Declarer cannot allow East to gain the lead. A ♣ switch from East might lead to quick defeat. Luckily, West holds the ♥AK. Perhaps a false card can help. Do you see it? South played the ♥J in tempo on trick 1 and the ♥Q in tempo in trick 2 as East showed a 3rd ♥. The ♥10 is not visible to

West. The temptation to hope partner held the ♥10 (and could switch to a ♣) proved too great for West. The ♥3 (asking for a ♣ return) was won by South's ♥10. NS took 10 more tricks in the pointed suits.

South unblocked the ♦AQ before leading to the dummy to run ♦s. 3N making 5 for plus 660 was

Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MP	15.38	7.44	7.44				12.74	15.38	7.44	15.38	0.56	15.38
Result	460	420	420				450	460	420	460	170	460

Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MP	7.44	7.44	0.56				7.44		7.44	7.44	7.44	2.15
Result	420	420	170				420		420	420	420	400

worth 15.4 MPs out of 17 (90%). 3 other pairs made 5N, one made 5♠. Making 4♠ was a slightly below average result. Two different sections played this board.

Post Mortem

If declarer plays ♥s in any other way, West might be tempted to cash out before switching. The decision to play NT and the false card in ♥s combined for a fine result.

It's always good practice to identify the danger opponent (here EAST) and to keep them off lead until you have handled the danger. The ♣ switch from East is certainly likely – if East only had an entry. Did you find the ruse?

North Deals
None Vul
MPs

♠ K104
♥ 87
♦ KJ973
♣ 1042

♠ 62		♠ 983
♥ AK963	N	♥ 542
♦ 64	W 14 E	♦ 10852
♣ A963	S	♣ QJ8

♠ AQJ75
♥ QJ10
♦ AQ
♣ K75

N: 3♦, 3♠, 3N, 1♣
S: 4♦, 4♠, 4N
EW: 1♥

Learning Points

- When holding most of the HCPs, play to hide what you hold from the opening leader IN TEMPO. The defense might help you.
- When NT and a Major will make the same number of tricks, choose NT. This happens usually when
 - We hold 24-25 HCP with ruffs in the short hand unlikely
 - We hold 28-30 HCP, no slam and only top losers.

Keywords: False Card, Danger Hand, NT instead of Majors