

Learning Points – Defending Against Precision

By Steve Moese. Edited by Mike Purcell

March 10, 2012

Competitive Bidding Level: Basic / Intermediate

South Deals NS Vul MPs	♠ 5 ♥ KJ9863 ♦ 943 ♣ J53	
♠ AQ86 ♥ A5 ♦ AK5 ♣ K962	N W 31 E S	♠ KJ10742 ♥ 10 ♦ 108 ♣ AQ107
	♠ 93 ♥ Q742 ♦ QJ762 ♣ 84	

A/X Open Pairs, Qualifying, Indianapolis Regional Mike Ma is my partner. We play Precision.

Against a strong ♣ auction it pays to interfere with the right hand. Taking opponents out of their fine-tuned constructive bidding tool kit might disrupt them enough so they cannot recover. They might even misremember their agreements.

The Bidding – West’s 1♣ is strong, artificial, and forcing. North offered 2♥, consuming space. East Doubled, showing ♠s. When asked, West said East was limited to 5-8 HCP. South bid 4♥, further taking air out of the auction. West settled on 4♠ unsure a slam was there. East did not continue because of the Unauthorized Information from West’s wrong explanation of their agreement.

South **West** **North** **East**
 Pass 1♣¹ 2♥! Double²
 4♥ 4♠ All Pass
 1=16+ HCP Forcing, Artificial
 2=Shows ♠s and 5-8 HCP (West error)
 East leads ♥6

The Play – West wins the ♥A and claims 13 tricks in short order.

Post Mortem – West had misremembered their agreement as to the strength of East’s double. By explaining their agreement incorrectly, West gave

East Unauthorized Information. East chose to pass 4♠. Bidding more would have resulted in a director call and likely an adjusted score. East cannot take advantage of what partner has obviously misremembered.

The 2♥ call jammed opponent’s auction. South’s raise to 4♥ took much of West’s maneuvering room out of the auction. Absent unauthorized information, a pass by West over 4♥ is forcing. Then East would be able to show the side ♣ suit, leading to at least a small slam in ♠s. 4♠ making 7 was a top for NS, 17 of 17 MPs.

What’s less obvious is how much risk NS took bidding to 4♥. At unfavorable vulnerability NS stand to lose 1♠, 1♥, 2♦s, and 2♣s in 4♥s Doubled for down 3 or -800, worth 15 of 17 MPs given the scores!

Learning Points

1. Strain to interfere over Big ♣ auctions as long as you don’t fool partner and don’t take abnormal risk. Take opponents out of their favorite tool kit and use up their bidding space.
2. With 10 trumps, bid to the 4-level – right away! That is, if you judge they can make slam. Sacrificing when V vs NV is rarely done and only when Slam is likely.
3. When you mis-explain an agreement, you are responsible for any Unauthorized Information. Partner may not use UI to decide what to do.

		NS	NS MPs	EW MPs
6♠	E	1010	10.5	6.5
7♠	E	1510	2.5	14.5
4♠	W	510	16	1
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5
7♠	W	1510	2.5	14.5
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5
7♠	W	1510	2.5	14.5
4♠	E	510	16	1
6N	W	1020	6	11
7♠	W	1510	2.5	14.5
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5
7♠	W	1510	2.5	14.5
4♠	W	510	16	1
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5
7♠	W	1510	2.5	14.5
6♠	W	1010	10.5	6.5

Keywords: *Interfering over Precision 1 Club, Unauthorized Information*