

April 2020 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 55, Lessons Learned – Where the cards are

	<i>North (Dummy)</i>
Dlr: West	♠ K 6
Vul: None	♥ K J 8 5
	♦ K 7 5
	♣ K 9 5 3
	<i>East (You)</i>
	♠ A 5 4 3 2
	♥ 7 6
	♦ A J 4
	♣ A 6 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

The full deal:

	♠ K 6		
	♥ K J 8 5		
	♦ K 7 5		
	♣ K 9 5 3		
♠ —	♠ A 5 4 3 2	♠ A 5 4 3 2	
♥ 9 3 2	♥ 7 6	♥ 7 6	
♦ 10 9 8 6 3 2	♦ A J 4	♦ A J 4	
♣ 10 8 7 4	♣ A 6 2	♣ A 6 2	
	♠ Q J 10 9 8 7		
	♥ A Q 10 4		
	♦ Q		
	♣ Q J		

Listening to the auction gives you information as to how the cards are distributed.

You can assume South has at least 12 points because he opened. Playing 2/1, North's 2C bid showed 13 points. That's 25 points, and you have 13. That means that partner (West) shouldn't have more than two points.

South bid spades, then hearts. Although South could be 5-5 or 6-4 in the majors, it is most likely he is 5-4. That makes it likely that West has three hearts.

South has at least five spades, you have five spades and dummy has two spades. Partner (West) has, at most, one spade.

Since West probably has three or four major suit cards, that leaves him with nine or ten minor suit cards.

Partner led the DT and the D5 was played from dummy. Normally, you would play low, keeping the DA over the DK.

However, knowing that partner has at most one spade, you rise with the DA and cash the SA. Partner shows out and you lead a low spade for partner to ruff.

The low spade is a suit-preference signal, telling partner to lead back the lower of the two non-trump suits. clubs. You take three aces and a spade ruff. Down one.

Dir: South	♠ 432		
Val: E-W	♥ 9754		
IMPs	♦ 76532		
	♣ 8		
	♠ KQJ10875		
	♥ AK		
	♦ K		
	♣ K73		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

(1) Waiting

Against South's 4♠, West leads the ♦ A, then switches to a trump. East wins the ♠ A and returns the ♥ J. Take over as South.

You have eight total tricks: six spade and two hearts. The only possibility of gaining two more tricks is by ruffing two clubs. Looking at dummy, opponents also know that you are going to try to ruff clubs and will try to lead trump to prevent you from doing so.

Because East did not immediately lead a second round of trump once he won the A, it's safe to assume that West has the last trump. Given that you have to lose a club, you would prefer to lose it to East, since he can't lead a trump (because he would have done so)

So... you lead the KC, wishing and hoping that East has the CA. It's a 50%/50% shot, but best to play for a chance to succeed instead of giving up.

When East wins the CA, you can win whatever is returned, trump your two clubs (ruffing diamonds high to get back to your hand), draw the last trump and claim.