

Improve Your Play



Remembering the Auction

By Larry Matheny
Fort Collins, Colorado

Some hands are relatively easy to play while others require a lot of work. This one was a bit complicated, but declarer had a roadmap to succeed.

Dealer: East Vul: North/South

	North	
	♠A103	
	♥A87	
	♦8643	
	♣AK9	
West		East
♠J98752		♠K4
♥106		♥K2
♦Q52		♦AJ107
♣83		♣QJ752
	South	
	♠Q6	
	♥QJ9543	
	♦K9	
	♣1064	

South	West	North	East
			1♣
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♣8

Bidding

North cue bid the opponents' suit to ask about the strength of his partner's overcall. After South showed a minimum, North had to be satisfied with just bidding game.

Play

West led the ♣8 to dummy's ace. The auction made it clear to South that the major suit kings and the ♦A were in the East hand. That meant he couldn't avoid losing one spade, one heart, and one diamond, so he had to avoid losing a club.

At trick two declarer led a low spade from dummy and East rose with the king. East continued with a high club to dummy's ♣K. Declarer led a spade to his queen and then a heart back to the

♥A. (It made no sense to take a heart finesse that was bound to lose.) Now he played the ♠A, East ruffed with the ♥K, and declarer discarded his last club. East followed with a third club, hoping to promote a trump trick for his partner, but declarer ruffed with the ♥Q.

Declarer now drew the last trump with the ♥J, followed by a small heart to dummy's ♥8. All that was left now was to lead a low diamond toward his ♦K. Game bid and made.

The Key

The key to this hand was just to remember the auction.

East's opening bid gave South all the information he needed to succeed.