

Board 5	♠ A832		
Dealer N	♥ AJ6532		
NS Vul	♦ —		
	♣ K85	♠ 7654	
♠ KJ9		♥ Q10	
♥ 987		♦ 952	
♦ K6		♣ AJ109	
♣ Q7432	♠ Q10		
	♥ K4		
	♦ AQJ108743		
	♣ 6		
		NT	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
		N	8 7 9 10 6
		S	8 7 9 10 4
		E	5 5 3 2 7
		W	5 5 3 2 7
Par +140 2♥+1 NS			

This was an instructive hand from a number of points of view.

First of all the bidding. I think N/S should bid as follows with E/W passing.

1♥ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♥

4 Tables had that exact sequence.

2 tables reversed into 2♠. That really needs more than 12 points.

Also, while a 2♥ rebid doesn't promise a 6 card suit it is quite likely.

I want to emphasise hearts. If partner has 5♦ and 4♠ they will bid 2♠ next.

The other 4 tables all jumped to 5♦, one immediately over the 1♥ opening.

I play 1♥-Pass-5♦ as Exclusion Key card Blackwood.

It asks partner for key cards, but says don't count the A♦ - I have a void.

With a hand like South's today what is the rush? Why is 5♦ the first bid?

When you have at least a 5-2 and probably a 6-2 ♥ fit why insist on ♦?

6 tables played 4♥ - 2♠ leads and 4♣ leads. The ♣ leads all let 4♥ make.

Leading unsupported aces is questionable unless partner has bid the suit.

Or if you have Ax and the bidding makes it likely partner has some values.

What was the rush to lead the clubs here? There is an old saying:

Aces were made to take Kings. Don't waste your aces on thin air.

On a spade lead declarer cannot quite make 4♥, best defence takes it 1 light.

But both spades badly placed and the Ace of clubs as well is a little unlucky.

On the other hand 5♦ should not, and did not, make either.

So were you a partnership player who allowed partner to play in their heart fit?

Or are you a bidding hog who found an excuse to play it in diamonds?

There is a joke: – What do you call an 8 card suit? The answer is: TRUMPS.

There is an element of truth in that, but it isn't always right.