Board 6

South Deals N-S Vul



Join me as South in an online matchpoint pairs game -- let's teach West not to double our 2 +!

Trick 1. On the \heartsuit 6 lead, we insert dummy's \heartsuit 9 and get lucky: the king pops up. We now have five probable spades, three hearts, and one club, with chances for overtricks in all three suits outside spades. Clearly, it's safest to attack diamonds first, hoping to keep East, the danger hand, off-lead.

Trick 2. Accordingly, we lead the \heartsuit 4 to the \heartsuit J.

Trick 3. We call for the \diamond 9 (planning to insert the \diamond J). East rises with the \diamond A, West playing the \diamond 3.

Trick 4. East shifts to the 49, and we win the 4. With only the one reentry to dummy, we are done finessing, and hearts may be splitting.

Trick 5. We cash the ♡ A, and they do split. (If West had four, our long heart would be a fine throw-in card.)

Trick 6. We cash the thirteenth heart, pitching the * 3 from dummy, producing the position below. Plan the play, and be specific:

- ▲ Q J 7 6 2 ◊ 7 ♣ 8
- **▲** A K 9 **◇** K J **♣** Q 4

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◊ O 8



West's double was rather silly: West only wants the lead, not to declare clubs; partner probably won't be on lead, as the 2 & opener will probably declare; and it violates my Buttinski rule, lacking 8 working HCP. Mostly, the double helps declarer.

East did as commanded, rising with the \diamond A to shift to a club. (Swap the \diamond Q and \diamond K between West and South, and East's play establishes a third trick for the defense.)

♦ O J 7 6 2 **♦** 7 ***** 8 ▲ 104 (now irrelevant) **&** K J 10

> **▲** A K 9 ♦ K J ♣ Q 4

We play off all five spades, discarding *two clubs* from hand. We have to watch for the **&** K-J-10. If we see them all, we cash the 4.8. Otherwise, we lead a diamond to the *king*, dropping the queen. (West cannot retain two diamonds and a club among their last two cards.) Making six earned a 99.2% score.

Having risen with the \diamond A, could East have done better?

WELL, YES, but East's plays seemed automatic. Leading back the 4 6, retaining the 4 9, would allow East to protect against dummy's 48. This would let West discard the 44 K on our 44 Q discard.