

Tidbit 4

“Clubs are for the golf course, diamonds are for your fingers”

Source: Roberta Salob

Interpretation: This simply reflects the fact that clubs and diamonds are called the minor suits because they score poorly in comparison with the major suits, spades and hearts, or a NT contract at the same level. To make a game in a minor requires 11 tricks and, at duplicate bridge, partnerships will strive to play in game in NT (3NT) if possible where only nine tricks are required.

Example:

Dir: North
Vul: All

♠K9874
♥K107
♦84
♣1087

North
29
South

♠532
♥AQ
♦KJ97
♣6432

♠Q106
♥J843
♦10653
♣J9

♠AJ
♥9652
♦AQ2
♣AKQ5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	4	2	1	4
W	5	5	2	1	4

	6	
10		20
	4	

East/West can make 5C comfortably on this hand for a score of 600 but 10 tricks in NT is also possible for a score of 630. A 3NT contract despite having only 1 spade stopper and only 1 heart stopper if played by East is worth the risk at Matchpoint Pairs scoring.

Exercise:

♠ 94

♥ 94

♦ AKQ842

♣ AT4

Bidding:

You are West with South Dealer, all vulnerable.

South	West	North	East
Pass	1D	1S	1NT(shows spade stopper)
Pass	??		

What do you bid?

Answer to Exercise Tidbit 3

Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

♠ Q1065
♥ 84
♦ Q105
♣ K863

North
3
South

♠ AKJ3
♥ J
♦ AK97632
♣ 10

♠ 9872
♥ K1052
♦ 8
♣ A752

♠ 4
♥ AQ9763
♦ J4
♣ QJ94

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	1	5	2
W	-	4	1	5	2

	7	
7		16
	10	

You are East, playing in 4S. Assuming you get the QC led, you win in dummy and finesse the QS successfully. However, South shows out when you play the AS. You now play AD and trump a diamond in dummy before returning to hand with the KS. You now play on your established long diamond suit until North chooses to ruff with her master trump. You have one trump remaining in your hand and can therefore maintain trump control. You will lose only to the QS and AH.