Beginners’ Lesson 9: Pre-emptive Openings

West has a good suit to overcall. North is not strong enough to bid and East’s hand is not suitable to raise.

The weak 2♣ opener made it hard for EW to reach 4♥.

The ♦Q lead is the top of partner’s suit.

Declarer draws trumps, plays on hearts, then clubs.

West leads ♦K.

West double promises a good opening hand. East should bid 4♠ with 4 trumps. South has a difficult decision to make now and will probably pass. 4♠ is one down which is a good result as NS can make 5♥.

Declarer should draw the trump then play diamonds (♠K first) to discard a small heart or club.

North double promises a 4-card trump support.

South draws trumps and ruffs 2 clubs in dummy.

North has a weak 7 card suit. South can make 4♠.

West draws trumps and ruffs 2 clubs in dummy.

West leads ♦K.

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North should play a heart towards dummy, then take a trump finesse.