

## Tales of Akarana

### When being “bad” is “good”.



I learnt my lesson the hard way. Opening 4 of a minor with a four card spade on the side was a recipe for disaster...and it was disaster as we never found our way to the cold 4♠ contract, wallowing in our minor misfit.

It did not seem to matter so much with a heart suit as if we had a heart fit, they were sure to outbid us in spades. So, never, ever again would I be opening a 4-7 shape where spades were the 4 card suit at a high level. Shame!

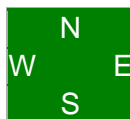
At one table, West did not pre-empt quite so violently and started with a weak 2 in diamonds. North passed with East going all the way to 5D. That left South with a seemingly obvious double and a nervous pass from North. Why should North-South worry as they held 29 out of 40 high card points? Well, we had better show you the four hands which demonstrated North had real concerns.

#### Board 16

West Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ J 10 9 6  
♥ 8  
♦ K J 8 7 6 5 2  
♣ 2

♠ Q 7 5 4 3 2  
♥ K 7 5  
♦ 10  
♣ K 6 3



♠ —  
♥ J 10 9 6 4 3  
♦ A 9 4 3  
♣ J 10 9

♠ A K 8  
♥ A Q 2  
♦ Q  
♣ A Q 8 7 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♦	Pass	5♦	Dbl
All pass			

Even if North had led a trump, technically the best lead when your side has 29 hcp and they have 11, there would be no opportunity for a second round of trumps with the heart suit providing the parking place for West's fourth spade.

Even if North had pulled the double to 5♠, there is no saying the auction would end there. 6♠, maybe even 6♣, would be very reasonable actions by South. 6♣ would fall prey to East's Lightner Double though beating 6♠ proved a little tougher than it seems on paper.

This contract failed five times (on a non-diamond lead, East need only show a liking for diamonds) but succeeded twice. Without a diamond opening from those well-brought up West players, a Weak 2♠ or Multi 2♦ opening from North would set North-South on their way to slam.

The beauty of Bridge is that sometimes it pays to be bad ("ill-disciplined" is a more polite term). Often, you have to bear partner telling you why you should not have taken a certain action. It is when partner gives you the same lecture after your side has just collected 13 imps, that you can feel a little aggrieved. Not that your partner ever would....would they?

*Richard Solomon*