



## Newcomer News — by Mike “Keeping Fun On My Convention Card” Purcell 513 702 4007

Here is the schedule for the next few Saturdays:

Mar 15 & 22 – Judy Ruehl and Bob Fisk

Mar 29 – Kay Mulford and John Meinking

This week we look at a hand where support points are just as important as HCP in making game.

**Board 9** ♠ K4  
 North ♥ Q1085  
 Deals ♦ K107  
 E-W Vul ♣ A863

♠ 53      ♠ Q9  
 ♥ 9764    ♥ AJ2  
 ♦ A54     ♦ Q932  
 ♣ KQ102   ♣ J954

NS 4♠; 2N;  
 2♥; 1♦;  
 EW 1♣



### (Tuesday 3/11)

**Bidding** – North has 12 HCP and opens 1♣ (12+ HCP, 3+ clubs). South has 9 HCP with 7 Spades. When you have this many of a suit you can assume partner has at least one for an 8 card fit. With distribution South has at least 12 support points (9 HCP, 2 for the club singleton, one for the heart doubleton). With this hand I am thinking at least game in spades but will start with a 1♣ (6+ HCP, 4+ spades) to see if partner has a minimum opener or a bigger hand to make slam possible. North will rebid 1NT showing a minimum but also some spades (2-3 typically, rarely 1). South can now go directly to a 4♠ game knowing slam is not likely.

**Play of the Hand** – On a ♣K lead (King from KQ), South has 4 losers (1♠, 1♥, 2♦). The ♠Q can and should be dropped by playing AK with 9 trumps. It is possible to pitch a diamond loser on hearts with careful play (or if East does not capture an honor with their Ace) if the defense does not attack diamonds early.

**Post Mortem** – This hand is yet another example where long trumps and distribution (aka. support points) work just as well as HCP to make game.

| Bd 9  | Scores |    | MPs  |      |
|-------|--------|----|------|------|
|       | NS     | EW | NS   | EW   |
| 4 ♠ S | 450    |    | 4.5  | 0.5  |
| 4 ♠ S | 450    |    | 4.5  | 0.5  |
| 4 ♠ S | 420    |    | 2.5  | 2.5  |
| 4 ♠ S | 420    |    | 2.5  | 2.5  |
| 3 ♠ S | 200    |    | 1    | 4    |
| 3 ♠ S | 170    |    | 0    | 5    |
| 4 ♠ S | 420    |    | 3.67 | 0.33 |
| 2 ♠ S | 170    |    | 1.17 | 2.83 |
| 3 ♠ S | 170    |    | 1.17 | 2.83 |

Looking to improve your game? If you have an Intel Computer we highly recommend the free software offered by the ACBL and developed by Mr. Fred Gitelman. Check it out at: <https://web.acbl.org/LearnToPlayBridge/>