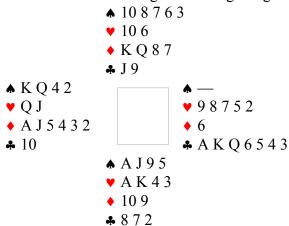
01/25/11 Annual Meeting follows regular game

Board 4West Deals
Both Vul



EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♠; EW 1◆						
West	North	East	South			
1 •	Pass	1 🔻	Pass			
1 🛦	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass			
2 •	Pass	3 .	Pass			
3 v	Pass	4 🔻	All pass			

1. Fourth suit forcing -- 4+ H; 13+ total points

Auction by GIB -- If you play 2/1 forcing to game, you must respond 1 ♥ -- yuk!

4 ♥ by East

Contract	Scores		Mato	Matchpoints	
	N-S	$\mathbf{E}\text{-}\mathbf{W}$	N-S	$\mathbf{E}\text{-}\mathbf{W}$	
4 ♥ E	100		5	1	4 vs 6
6 ♣ E	100		5	1	5 vs 1
3 ♣ E	100		5	1	6 vs 3
3 ♣ E		150	3	3	2 vs 2
3 NT E		600	2	4	7 vs 5
3 NT W		630	0.5	5.5	1 vs 8
3 NT W		630	0.5	5.5	3 vs 4

My methods for 1 ◆ - 2 ♣ work well; I'll write them up soon. Treat that as a 4-card heart suit: this is a club hand, unless *West* bids hearts! Here's a start to the auction:

1 → - 2 ♣; 2 ♠ [shows at least 4=5 shape, no limits on values] - 3 ♣ [non-forcing]

Pass is now a fine call, with the misfit. 3NT is also reasonable, hoping for ▼10xx or the like in East.

3 ▼ [fourth suit forcing] could lead to 4 ♣, but is OK this time: East bids 3NT with all those tricks and hearts. An alternative auction, if 2 ♠ is a reverse and responder carries responsibility for major suit fits:

1 ◆ - 2 ♣; 2 ◆ [long but limited] - 2 ♥; 2NT - 3NT

There are 8 tricks on top at 3NT, and a ninth available in either major, since the ♥10 comes down. It comes down to avoiding two diamond losers. If North leads a low diamond (the correct card, in the wrong suit), the hand is over. A spade lead also cedes the ninth trick - a tenth, if South takes the Ace. Better is the ♥10 and a switch to the ◆10. A count of tricks produces the winning play: finesse the Jack, just in case, and win the second round. The only chance is exactly what happens: North has no entry, and ninth trick comes in safely, after cashing the first eight and leading a heart. The pair in 3♣ making five deserved a better score, but their luck was out. Mix up the N/S cards just a little, and 3NT would be down one on a heart lead. - Pete Matthews