

Hand of month April 2021

Dir: N 9
Vul: E-W

19	♠ K J 6 5
4 8	♥ A 3
9	♦ Q 5 3
	♣ A K Q 2

♠ 4 3	♠ Q 9 7
♥ Q 8 4	♥ K 10 7 5
♦ J 10 8	♦ K 9 6 4
♣ J 10 9 5 4	♣ 8 3

♠ A 10 8 2
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ A 7 2
♣ 7 6

When you are trying to find your best fit, do not give up on the Major suits. 5/3 and 4/4 fits are many times the best place to play. New Minor Forcing is a handy tool. It is a "check back" to see if you have one of these fits. In the April 5, 2021 game hand # 9 is a prime example. Here is the auction:

1C - P - 1H - P

2NT- P - 3D - P

3S - P - 4S - P

The 3D bid is New Minor Forcing (NMF), is alerted and is artificial. It asks the 2NT bidder to further describe their hand. The 2NT bid does not deny having a 4 card Spade suit. The 3D bid is asking if partner has a 4 card Spade suit or 3 card Heart support. If partner has neither they bid 3NT.

In this case the 2NT bidder will bid 3S. 4S played carefully will make 5 for a score of + 450 which will score better than 3NT. Do not give up on finding Major

suit fits!!! New Minor Forcing and Fourth Suit Forcing are very good ways to find these fits.