

WORDS OF WISDOM

... by Bill Wisdom

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: East-West

11
5 22
2

North

♠ 10
♥ 7
♦ K 9 8 5 4
♣ A K J 9 8 3

West

♠ K J 7 6 3
♥ 8 2
♦ J 6
♣ 10 6 4 2

East

♠ A Q 9 5
♥ A K Q J 10 5
♦ A Q 7
♣ ---

South

♠ 8 4 2
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ 10 3 2
♣ Q 7 5

Board 9 of Cindy's Corner Friday February 12 game was played 13 times with nine different contracts. No one got to the grand slam in either hearts or spades. Two E-W pairs played in clubs (one in a cue bid and one possibly in exclusion Blackwood).

If North opens 1♣, East has a normal take-out double. South passes and West responds 1♠. If North rebids 2♣, East should cue-bid 3♣. West will rebid his spades at the 3 level. Now comes the moment of truth! Key-card Blackwood will not help because, if partner responds 1, does he have the K♠ or the A♣? Two people I know simply jumped to 6♠. What is the best bid?

East can bid 5NT grand slam force, seldom used but perfect for this hand. When West shows one of the top three honors (suggested response of 6♦ by Ron Klinger), East can bid a hopeful 7♠