

5. Mullamphy's Four Spades

By Ron Klinger

This deal comes from a teams' match on BBO in 2020:

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 1084	
	♥ KQJ9	
	♦ 1093	
	♣ Q62	
West		East
♠ AQ		♠ J92
♥ 10843		♥ A7652
♦ 75		♦ J84
♣ KJ873		♣ 54
	South	
	♠ K7653	
	♥ --	
	♦ AKQ62	
	♣ A109	

At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♦ ⁽²⁾	2♥ ⁽³⁾
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Note the vulnerability

(2) 4+ hearts

(3) Spades and diamonds

East led the ♣5, nine, king, and West returned the ♣3, won by the ♣10. Declarer played dummy's ♠3, taken by the ♠Q, and West gave East a club ruff. Declarer had a spade to lose, but had nine tricks, +140.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♥8: king – ace – ♠3. Matt Mullamphy (S) played the ♠5, won by the ♠Q. West shifted to the ♦7: ten – jack – ace. Next came the ♠6, taken by the ♠A. West continued with the ♦5: three – eight – king. South cashed the ♠K to remove East's ♠J, played the ♦2 to dummy's ♦9 and ditched his club losers on the ♥Q, ♥J, for 11 tricks, +650 and +11 Imps.

Mullamphy triumphed in another 4♠ contract on this deal from the same match:

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ QJ109	
	♥ 10982	
	♦ K1054	
	♣ 9	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ K42
♥ AQ765		♥ J43
♦ Q96		♦ J83
♣ AQJ7		♣ K853
	South	
	♠ A8763	
	♥ K	
	♦ A72	
	♣ 10642	

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣ ⁽¹⁾	4♠	All Pass	2♠

(1) Long suit trial bid

West led the ♥A, followed by the ♥5: eight – jack – ♠3. South exited with the ♣2. West won with the ♣J and switched to the ♠5, won by dummy's ♠9. South crossed to the ♦A, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and ruffed another club. After cashing the ♦K, South played dummy's last heart. East discarded a diamond. South ruffed, ruffed his last club and had ten tricks, +420.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Dble	3♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♠

(1) Spade raise

West led the ♦6. South also made ten tricks, +170, but –6 Imps.

Always do right. This will gratify some and astonish the rest. (Mark Twain, 1835-1910)