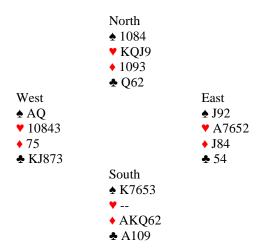
5. Mullamphy's Four Spades

By Ron Klinger

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

West dealer: North-South vulnerable



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

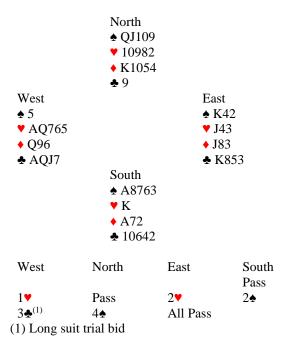
At the other table:

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

West led the \P 8: king – ace – \P 3. Matt Mullamphy (S) played the \P 5, won by the \P Q. West shifted to the \P 7: ten – jack – ace. Next came the \P 6, taken by the \P 4. West continued with the \P 5: three – eight – king. South cashed the \P 4K to remove East's \P 4J, played the \P 42 to dummy's \P 9 and ditched his club losers on the \P Q, \P 4J, for 11 tricks, +650 and +11 Imps.

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

South dealer: Nil vulnerable



West led the \P A, followed by the \P 5: eight – jack – \clubsuit 3. South exited with the \clubsuit 2. West won with the \clubsuit J and switched to the \spadesuit 5, won by dummy's \spadesuit 9. South crossed to the \spadesuit A, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and ruffed another club. After cashing the \spadesuit 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 1♠
Dble Pass	3♦ ⁽¹⁾ Pass	Pass Pass	3♠
(1) Spade 1		1 433	

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)