

SMASH THE SYSTEM V UPPERCUT

Here is a hand from our match v Uppercut. It's one we lost imps on.

Boards were hand dealt, so I have only been able to include the spots I was able to remember (which I think is all the relevant ones, only the spade and diamond pips are vital to the contract as far as I can tell).

The image shows a hand layout with the following cards:

- North:** ♠9, ♥AQ10, ♦A1085, ♣AJ1043
- West:** ♠10, ♥J954, ♦KJ632, ♣K72
- East:** ♠A6532, ♥K76, ♦Q4, ♣Q96
- South:** ♠KQJ874, ♥832, ♦97, ♣85

The bidding table is as follows:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dbl

At the other table, South opened 2♠ and N/S made a spade partial. There seems not to be much to the play in spades, making 5♠, 2♥, 1♦, 1♣ on normal lines (though I wouldn't be shocked to see a defence that allowed clubs to set up for more tricks).

At my table, South passed (being a great believer in having shape for second seat unfavourable preempts, the same suit with 6-3-3-1 shape would have done, and not vulnerable it would have been routine).

(the 1NT bid was made over the player had obviously thought about passing)

North led ♠9 (routine given the auction, which must show spades with South), won by South's J.

It is very likely that North will be struggling to find safe leads later in the play, so South would like to help out by finding a useful switch, but it is not clear which switch will be helpful and which detrimental (for example, here a diamond switch can hardly help and might well cause partner to err). South decided to continue with KS, giving declarer only the AS he was always entitled to.

Declarer discarded a heart, North a club, and dummy won. Next came Q♦ - 9 - x-A. Winning this trick is a clear error, as declarer will be in difficulty for entries. Ducking the first diamond and winning the second must be right. North got out with ♥Q (note that this can't blow a heart trick immediately) to the K in dummy.

Declarer won and bashed out the diamonds, North winning the fourth round. Now a club or a heart gives up a trick, but North has only those suits left. He chose a club, which declarer won before cashing diamonds and leading another club.

1NTx made exactly, with one spade, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs.

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