271. What I prefer My Opponents Do not Do

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                    ♠ 987
                    ♥ J86
                    ♦ 98762
                    ♣ AK

    ♠ K6            N           ♠ 5432
    ♥ 742                       ♥ KQ105
    ♦ QJ104       W   E         ♦ AK5
    ♣ Q1043                     ♣ J5
                    S

                    ♠ AQJ10
                    ♥ A93
                    ♦ 3
                    ♣ 98762
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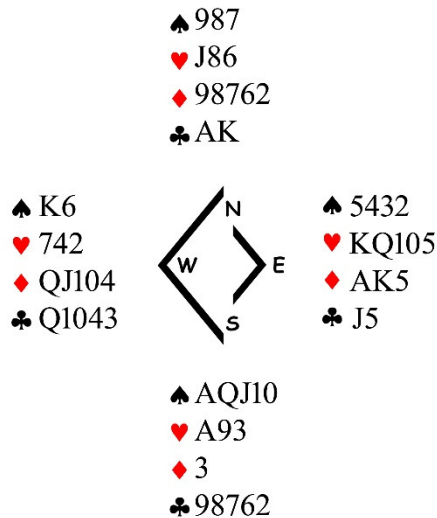
S	W	N	E
	P	P	1 ♦
1 ♠	1NT	2 ♠	All Pass

--None Vulnerable--

I prefer my opponents not do the following because this makes life difficult for me

- Open 1NT with 14 HCP's, a couple of tens and a five-card-suit
- Open 1NT with a five-card major when 5-3-3-2
- Overcall with a four-card suit such as KQJx or AKJ10
- Open light in third seat
- Balance
- Open a weak two with five cards such as KQJ10x and very short in the unbid majors
- Refuse to take a finesse when an end-play is available

- Falsecard

While I prefer my opponents do the following:
- Pre-empt with a suit without any of the top three honours
- Overcall with bad suits
- Make minimum off-shape takeout doubles
- Sell out to one or two-level contracts
- Feel they have to enter opponent's auction every time they have an opener
- Stay out of the auction without a full opener.
- Hide four-card majors from partner during the bidding
- False-card incorrectly
- Bid one of the suits for which I have doubled
- Save me from misfits by bidding

Of all the points made above, I will concentrate on overcalling with a four-card suit. Mike Lawrence in his "Complete book on overcalls," states that overcalling properly with a four-card suit can be devastating and he prefers that his opponents were "not into this particular strategy."

The bidding:
East opens One Diamond and South overcalls One Spade. This is an excellent bid as it shows a strong suit, and it takes away most of the one-level from the opponents. West responds One No Trump denying four Hearts because he did not make a negative double. North, always assuming partner has five for his overcall, raises to Two Spades and the auction passes out.

The Play:
West leads the Diamond Queen, and declarer ruffs the second Diamond. He cashes the top two Clubs and the Heart Ace and then cross-ruffs the hand making nine tricks for +140. West will ruff the fifth Club and lead trump. Trump leads keep declarer to +110.