

## THE LANGUAGE OF BIDDING

Language is so very important. If you go to South America and ask how to get to the church ¿Dónde está la iglesia? is what you should say. If instead you ask: ¿Cuánto dinero hace usted? You have just asked someone how much money they make.

If partner opens 1 Spade and you have 13 points and you now bid 2 Spades, she will think you only have 6-9 points. That is what you have communicated to her.

In bridge, we bid. This is also a form of communication. We advertise what we have in our hand, using a vocabulary of only 15 words. It is imperative that we use a language that partner will understand. You both have to be on the same page! Don't race in to play bridge at the last minute without any discussion. Partner cannot read your mind. You have to discuss style and bidding agreements. If you bid just on gut instinct (bidding by the seat of your pants), it simply cannot work.

Here are some examples of how the train can go off the tracks. What would you bid with the following hands: (RHO stands for Right Hand Opponent)

- 1S by RHO & you have  
AQ5 K76 A987 QJ8
- 1S by RHO & you have  
AQ5 KQ7 AQ98 QJ8
- 2 S by RHO & you have  
KQ8 AQ9 K76 K942
- 1S by RHO & you have  
9 83 AJ765 K10987
- 1H by RHO & you have  
AQ7654 9 743  
972
- 1H by RHO & you have  
AK876 76 Q98 A97

### Answers to quiz:

1. If you were the opener, you would open with 1NT. As an overcaller, you will now overcall 1NT. This shows 15-17 HCP (some believe 15-18 HCP...either is fine) and a stopper in opponent's suit. (A double stopper is best but sometimes you aren't dealt such luxury.)

2. Now you have 20 HCP. You cannot overcall 1NT as you are too strong. Nor can you overcall 2NT as that will mean something altogether different (we will cover that momentarily). Thus, you must double first and then bid No Trumps. This shows a hand that was too big to overcall 1NT. It will show 19-21 HCP and a Spade stopper.

e.g.  
S W (you)N E  
  
1S dbl Pass 2C  
Pass 2NT

3. Overcall 2NT. This will show 15-18 HCP and at least one S stopper. Note that this is not a jump to 2 No Trump. After a weak 2 opening bid by opponents, your bid of 2NT is never the **Unusual 2NT**.

### Answers to quiz

4. There is a special convention designed to show this hand which is 5-5 in the minors, when the opponents have opened with a major. This is called the **Unusual 2NT**. On this hand, it is perfect, bid 2NT and advertise both your minor suits immediately, all in one breath.

If instead you choose to overcall 2D first, what would you do later if LHO now bids 3S or 4S. You will never have a chance to show your second suit (C) at a cheap level.

Suppose your partner has  
xx Axx xxx Axxxx

If you bid 2NT, then if LHO bids 4S, your partner can now happily bid 5C, knowing that together your partnership has a 10 card C fit. This is a wonderful sacrifice against 4S which likely makes.

*Note that if opponents open 1 of a minor, then if you bid 2NT, it will show at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits. i.e. If opponents open with 1 C and you as an opponent bid 2NT, then you are promising at least 5-5 in D and H. If opponents open with 1 D and you as an opponent bid 2NT, you will be promising 5-5 in C and H.*

5. If you were the dealer, you would open the bidding with 2S. It would show a weak hand: 6-10 HCP and a 6 card suit with 2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5 honors. As an overcaller, you should make exactly the same bid. Bid 2S.

6. Bid 1S. This shows 8-17 points (including distribution) and a 5 card suit. If you have only 8-12 points, then you must have a sterling quality suit with 2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5 honors. It will show a suit you are proud of that you wish partner to lead. With 13 or more points, then lesser quality is acceptable.

Less experienced players often have a burning urge to say "double" first on this hand versus overcalling 1S. If you were to double instead and if your partner were to respond 2C to your double, you are not strong enough to now mention your S. (To double first and then bid your suit should show 18 or more points and a good 5 card suit.)

Talk to your partner and try to stay behind at the end of the game to go over hands on which you had misunderstandings. This will go a long way towards preventing the same problem occurring again.

# SQUEEZING THE DEFENDERS

by

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You can do it! The play we always hear about experts making! It is very satisfying when you successfully execute a squeeze play so it truly is worth the bother to learn this!

*A hand always contains some cards that are **busy**, and some that are relatively worthless or **idle**. When a player must discard a **busy** card (because he has nothing else), he is said to be **squeezed**. A squeeze is a way that declarer can create extra tricks when he is desperate.*

e.g. These are all different suits and hands that follow: You hold:

A52 The 5 and the 2 are "idle" cards as the Ace needs no bodyguards to protect it from being "eaten".

K52 The 2 is an "idle" card, you can pitch it anytime but the 5 must be retained to protect your King from being "eaten".  
The 5 is a "busy" card.

Q752 The 2 is an idle card. It is vital that you keep the other two cards as bodyguards for the Q. They are "busy" cards.

J852 These small cards are all "busy" cards. The J needs 3 bodyguards to protect it from being consumed by the Ace, King & Queen.

You get the idea. Now...over to Declarer!!!!

Supposing you are in a hopeless contract, (or seemingly hopeless); maybe all is not lost. Maybe one of your opponents has to hang on to all her bodyguards i.e. she only has "busy" cards in her hand. As you run your long suit, you force her to make a fatal discard.

e.g.

DUMMY

D	AJ
C	K

D	KQ
C	Ace

DECLARER

H	Ace (you are leading this now)
D	5
C	4

You are declarer and you are down to a three card ending. When you lead the H Ace (this is known as the **squeeze card**), poor West has a huge dilemma. If he discards a D, your D Ace in dummy will fell the DQ and your DJ will be high. If West pitches his CAce, dummy's CK will now be high.

The DJ in dummy and the CK in dummy are both classified as "threat cards".

It is important to note that in the above scenario, if East had been holding D KQ C Ace

Then this attempt to execute a squeeze would not have worked as the dummy (with the threat cards) would be forced to part with one of those threat cards prior to East having to decide what to pitch. i.e. If dummy pitched the DJ, then East could safely pitch his DQ. If instead dummy pitched the CK, then East could safely pitch his CAce.

Thus, this squeeze only works against ONE opponent versus both opponents.

Don't get too hung up on all this though, as you start out in the world of squeezes. When all else looks bleak, try running your long suit and just hope for something good to happen. Sometimes, at the very least, one of your opponents isn't paying enough attention and may simply discard the wrong card. This is called a pseudo squeeze!!

Let's have a look at a full hand: It is best if you lay out these cards at home and see what happens to poor West as declarer (south) plays each card.

	S	AQ74		
	H	J432		
	D	763		
	C	54		
S	J983		S	102
H	7		H	1098
D	AKQ8		D	1092
C	KQ102		C	98763
	S	K65		
	H	AKQ65		
	D	J54		
	C	AJ		

S	W	N	E
1H	Dbl	2H	P
4H			

West leads DAKQ and switches to CK. It looks to declarer as though the contract hinges on spades breaking 3-3. Odds on the missing 6 cards dividing 3-3 are about 35%, whereas the chances of them breaking 4-2 are about 48%. Declarer does know that West has to hold the CQ as he led the CK at trick # 4. Odds are high that he has also holds four S in view of his takeout double. What if he has to discard one of these precious cards, either a S or the CQ. That would bring home the contract.

South won the CAce and drew trumps. Instead of playing S now to see if they behave, he led trumps, not just three rounds but **five** rounds.

Here is the 5 card ending:

	S	AQ74		
	H	---		
	D	---		
	C	4		
S	J983		S	102
H	---		H	---
D	---		D	---
C	Q		C	987
	S	K65		
	H	<b>5 led</b>		
	D	---		
	C	J		

At trick 9, south (declarer) leads the H5 from his hand. This card is called the **squeeze card**. Poor West is up the creek now. Whatever he discards will help declarer. If he discards a S, declarer's S4 in dummy will now be high. If he discards the CQ, then declarer's CJ will be good.

Note that it was important to not first touch the S suit or entries would now be a problem. It is no good having the S 4 high in dummy if you have no way to get there.

Note also that even if it had been the East hand who held these cards, the Squeeze would still have worked. This hand is an example of a **SIMPLE** squeeze.

Nobody likes to feel helpless. It is a very frustrating feeling to be squeezed (at the bridge table anyway☺) so now it's your turn to make your opponents feel helpless.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE 5-4 IN THE MAJORS & PARTNER OPENS 1NT

If you have 0-7 HCP and 5-4 in the majors (five of one and 4 of the other), you should use a Transfer (since most of the time you need 8 or more HCP to use Stayman). After you transfer, you then pass opener's completion of the transfer.

e.g.

1NT - 2D

2H - Pass

or

1NT - 2H

2S - Pass

If you have 8-9 HCP and are 5-4 in the majors, you should use Stayman. The reason is that you never want to miss a 4-4 fit in a major which plays a lot better than a 5-3 fit (given a choice). If opener responds 2D, you now bid 2 of your major. Responder knows that you must have 5 of that suit. Then why did you not just transfer in the first place? Aha! You must have had 5 of that major and 4 of the other.

e.g.

1NT - 2C

2D - 2H (I have 5 Hearts and 4 Spades and 8-9 HCP)

or - 2S (I have 5 Spades and 4 Hearts and 8-9 HCP)

With a minimum NT and not liking the major, opener now bids 2NT.

With a minimum NT and liking the major, he passes 2 of the major.

With a maximum NT and not liking the major, opener now bids 3NT.

With a maximum NT and liking the major, he bids game in the major.

If opener instead responds 2 of a major after your Stayman bid, then you now invite her to bid 4 by bidding 3 of the major.

e.g.

1NT - 2C

2H - 3H

If opener happens to bid the major in which you have 5 cards, you may well now raise her to 4 of that major and pray.

If you have 10 or more

HCP and are 5-4 in the majors, then you should still use Stayman. If partner responds in a major, then you now jump to game in that major.

If opener bids 2D instead (denying ownership of a 4 card major) then you should now show your major at the THREE level.

e.g.

1NT - 2C

2D - 3H shows five Hearts and 4 Spades and 10 or more HCP

or - 3S shows five Spades and 4 Hearts and 10 or more HCP

Did you know that you can use Stayman with ZERO HCP too!!!

If you have 4-4-4-1 (four spades, four hearts, four diamonds & one club)

or if you have 4-4-5-0 (four spades, four hearts, five diamonds & NO clubs).

Some players even use Stayman could even do it if you have 4-3-5-1 or 3-4-5-1 with a really lousy hand.

Naturally, you plan to pass whatever the 1 NT opener bids next.

You should discuss this with your partner. It doesn't come up often.

There is a convention named SMOLEN which deals with what to do when you have 5-4 in the majors. It is a good convention and if you are more experienced, you may want to consider learning this.

## HOW TO COMPETE AGAINST PREEMPTS

Exercises are by Ron Klinger

**A.** Your right hand opponent (RHO) has opened 3D. What will you bid on these hands, if anything. You are not vulnerable.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
K5	A982	AQJ762	A2	AK5
73	AQ43	J3	QJ3	AJ2
AQ1064	9	43	AQ2	AK4
KQ73	AJ32	KQ9	KQJ32	AJ97

6.	7.	8.	9.
KQJ2	AQ83	AJ87	KQJ9
AQJ83	J62	AK8	AKQJ
9	QJ97	62	3
AK6	A9	AQ52	AKJ9

**B.** You are EAST. South has opened 3H and partner said "Double". Pass by RHO. Your bid. You are not vulnerable.

1.	2.	3.	4	5.
		KQ72		
9532	6	J3	AQ9742	82
73	432	A964	8	K63
Q1064	J8764	J95	Q862	AQJ4
Q73	9753		52	Q983

**C.** You are East. South has opened 3C and partner said "DOUBLE". Pass by RHO. Your bid. You are not vulnerable.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
96432	4	952	Q972	AQ72
QJ73	AQ2	J3	Q953	KQ63
64	J9764	AK643	Q82	J43
73	QJ93	A84	43	32

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

1. Pass

2. Double

3. 3S

4. Double

5. 3NT

6. Double

7. Pass

8. Double

9. Double

1. 3S

2. 4D

3. 4S

4. 4S

5. 3NT

1. 3S

2. Pass

3. 3NT

4. 3H

5. 4C

Dealer: East Vul: None

Hand by Eddie Kantar

North

S. AKQJ9853

H. KJ

D.-

C. AKQ

West

S. 2

H. A10987652

D. A109

C. 2

East

S. 74

H. Q

D. K86543

C. 7643

South

S. 106

H. 43

D. QJ72

C. J10985

**East    South    West    North**

**Pass    Pass    4H    6S**

**All Pass**

**Opening lead: HQ**

**Bidding Commentary: Think "four level preempt" when looking at an 8 card suit with less than opening bid values. After the 4H opening, North bids what he thinks he can make. Four level preempts can do that to you.**

**Play Commentary: At trick one North must play the HK under the A! Why? When the HQ is led, West knows North has the king but doesn't know who has the jack. From North's point of view the king and jack are equals once the queen is led. In order to protect himself, North must play the card he is known to hold, the king.**

**If the king is played at trick one, West may be torn between leading a second heart or trying to cash the DA. If North plays the HJ at trick one, it's a no-brainer. West can safely lead a heart knowing East will ruff. After all, North still has the HK.**

**Both the declarer and the defenders have to be alert to play cards they are known to hold if it cannot cost a trick. When the card you are known to hold (HK) has an equal (HJ) it is mandatory to unload the one they know you have. Why hang on to a card the opponents know you have when you can play it and keep one the opponents don't know you have? The longer you hold "known" cards that can safely be played, the easier you make life for your opponents.**

**Think of known cards that have equals as hot potatoes! Get rid of them!**

## MINI QUIZ

1. You have this hand

AK43

J765

764

AQ

You open the bidding with 1D. Standard American. With no 5 card suit, you open with your **longest minor**.

Your partner responds 1H. It is your turn to bid. What will it be?

2. You are dealt this hand:

AK76

754

762

43

Your partner opens 1H. Pass on your right. Your bid.

Answers:

1. 2H. You have at least an eight card fit in hearts. Do not bid 1S seeking another fit. This is your one chance to tell partner you like her suit. If you later raise her suit instead, then she knows you cannot have four hearts.

2. 2H. Once again, you have an eight card fit. AND you are a weak hand. You have only 6-9 points and thus are normally permitted only one bid. Tell your story NOW. "I have 6-9 points and three or four hearts."



# TRANSFERS OR STAYMAN? WHICH TO USE?

by

**BARBARA SEAGRAM**

When partner opens with 1NT, we are now the captain of the hand and we are in charge of getting our side to the best contract. Two of the most commonly used conventions are Stayman and Jacoby Transfers. It is important to know when to use each of these conventions, without getting them muddled.

S QJXX      H AQXXX      D JX    C XX

You hold the hand above and partner opens with 1NT. You decide to bid 2 D, to transfer to hearts and then you will bid 3NT to offer partner a choice of playing in 3NT or 4 H depending upon the number of Hearts she holds. The catch is that you will play in 3NT when partner holds the following:

S AKXX      H KX    D AXXX    C QXX

Groan! You will be hard pressed to make 3 NT but 4 S is a fine contract. What went wrong?

You chose the wrong tool for the wrong job. Look what happens if we had used Stayman instead.

**Transfer Auction**

**Stayman Auction**

1NT - 2 D

1 NT    -      2 C

2 H    - 3NT

2 S    -      4 S

Pass

Stayman definitely got us to the better contract in this case.

Here's the rule:

With 4 cards in one major and 5 cards in the other, you must use Stayman, not transfers.

So, what will we do if the 1 NT opener responds 2 D (" No, I don't have a 4 card major") instead to our Stayman query? With 10 or more HCP, we would now bid 3 H, showing a five card H suit. Opener will wonder why we did not use a Transfer to start with and will now realize that you must have had five H and four S in your hand. 3 H is now forcing and opener will raise to 4 H with 3 cards in that suit or bid 3NT without 3-card support. If you had owned only 8 or 9 HCP, you would have next bid 2 H after opener's 2 D response. This would show five H, four S and 8 or 9 HCP. Opener could then decide what to do next.

What will you do as responder to 1 NT when you have two five card majors?

S KQXXX D AQXXX D X C XX.

You have two five card majors in the above hand. **RULE:** Whenever you have two five card suits in life, you always bid the higher one first. As opener, as responder to the opening bid, as an overcaller and now.

Here's how the bidding would go:

1 NT	2 H
2 S	4 H

The 4 H bid announces that, in addition to having five S, you also have five H and allows partner to choose the best contract.

*Note that this last auction is a simplified version. You should discuss with partner what to do with 5-5 in the majors and only 8-9 HCP versus having 10 or more HCP. There are other methods.*

*Note that with a very weak hand and 5-5 in the majors*

*e.g.*

*J7543*

*Q10963*

*32*

*7*

*Transfer to the better major (in this case: Bid 2D to transfer to hearts) and then pass when partner bids 2H)*

*Until now, you have had game-going hands. Now you are dealt this disappointment.*

S Axxxx      H xx      D xxx      C xx

Partner once again opens 1 NT and you consider passing. If you pass, you are providing partner with only one trick. 1 NT is a tough contract to make when partner has trash. Your side will be much safer playing this hand in S. Remember that the 1 NT opener cannot have a singleton or a void when he opens 1 NT so at least your side will have seven S between you. The hand will be easier to control in a suit contract.

1NT      2 H  
2 S      Pass

In order to use Stayman, traditionally you need to have 8 or more HCP. However, sometimes you are dealt this:

S 5432      H 7654      D 7543      C 7

or S 5432      H 7654      D 87543      C ---

On this hand, you can use Stayman also. Some people call this "Garbage Stayman."

You bid 2 C when partner has opened 1 NT and then pass whatever partner responds, even if she responds 2 D. Partner will have more fun playing this in 2 D than in 1 NT. She will even be able to ruff her losing C's with your tiny D's.

One more: You must not use Stayman when you have no short suit. **No shortness, no Stayman.**  
e.g.

S Axxx      H Kxx      D Qxx      C Qxx

Just respond 3 NT. You have no ruffing values, no reason to wish to avoid playing in NT, so bid No Trumps.

Stayman and Transfers are, like all conventions, very useful, but only when you use them properly and with a full understanding of all the ramifications of them. Take time to learn how to use them and apply them when appropriate. Remember, just because you have a hammer, not every problem is a nail.

## TO COVER OR NOT TO COVER?

by

Barbara Seagram

There is an old adage: "Cover an honor with an honor." Note that this applies only to a defender and is not always correct.

Here are some guidelines for what to do when dummy is on your right and you are in second seat (the same concept applies regardless of whether this is a notrump or a suit contract):

Dummy (North)

Q52

You (East)

K109

Declarer leads the queen from dummy and you have the K109. No declarer worth his salt would lead the queen without also owning the jack. Thus declarer must have the AJx. What should you do? You must cover with the king, so that your ten will ultimately become a winner.

Dummy (North)

Q52

You (East)

K64

The queen is led from dummy. This time you do not own the nine or the ten, so you have to hope that your partner holds a worthwhile card in that suit.

On this layout, **you must cover with the king**, so that West's ten can develop into a winner. If you do not cover, declarer will repeat the finesse and score four tricks in the suit.

Thus, when dummy is on your right, it is most often correct to cover an honor with an honor.

Let's see the entire suit laid out:

Dummy (North)	
Q52	
West (your partner)	You (East)
1083	K64
Declarer	
AJ97	

Now let's look at a different scenario:

Dummy (North)	
QJ109	
873	You (East)
	K542
Declarer	
A6	

The queen is led from dummy. When dummy is on your right and has more than one touching honor, you must cover the **last** honor. (Here, the ten and the nine have grown up into being

classified as honors, since they lie in sequence with the queen and the jack.) If you cover the first honor led, then declarer has four sure tricks. If you do not cover, then declarer may get only two tricks in this suit.

Let's have a look at a variation in the context of a full deal:

		<b>Dummy (North)</b>		
		432		
		KJ5		
		QJ93		
		A43		
<b>West (your partner)</b>			<b>You (East)</b>	
AKQJ			98	
864			9732	
1086			K72	
J109			8765	
		<b>Declarer</b>		
		10765		
<b>South</b>	<b>North</b>	AQ10		
		A54		
1NT	3NT	KQ2		

**Opening lead: Ace Spades**

West, your partner, takes the first four spade tricks and shifts to the Club Jack. Meanwhile, declarer counts his sure tricks: three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. Not enough! He realizes that his only hope is to score two extra tricks in diamonds. He wins with the Club Ace in dummy and leads the queen of diamonds. If you, as East, cover with the king, declarer will win with the D Ace and finesse your partner for the D 10, resulting in nine tricks. If you refuse to cover the D Queen, however, declarer will win that trick, but cannot now generate the three tricks he needs in the diamond suit. Your long-range plan should be to cover the second honor. This will beat the contract.



What do we lead when partner has bid a suit? We lead her suit. Unless she has opened 1C or 1D and we have something else that screams to be led, such as AKx of another suit (against a trump suit contract or KQJxx in another suit against NT). On the hand below, West has nothing better to lead so leads partner's suit.

If West had held the following cards in partner's suit against a NT contract (these are all different scenarios with the suggested lead in that suit underlined)

- K62
- Q83
- A952 bottom of something
- 952 top of nothing
- 93 top of nothing and always lead high-low when you have a doubleton.

So you see, it was only back in 1939 that we would lead the top of partner's bid suit. That is NOT the case now. We lead pretty much the same as what we would lead when leading partner's suit against a suit contract but we do not underlead an Ace on opening lead against a suit contract. Thus with A952, we would lead the Ace if partner bid the suit and we chose to lead that suit.

There is one exception to leading top of nothing and that is when partner has bid the suit and we have NOT raised her.

When we have 952 in partner's suit and we **have raised** partner's suit, we lead the 9. Partner will KNOW this cannot be a doubleton as we would never have raised her with a doubleton.

BUT when we have 952 in partner's suit and we **have not raised**, now we must lead a **small** one. It is more important for partner to know that we have 3 or more cards in her suit than for her to know whether we have an honour or not.

So with three or four small cards in partner's suit and you have **NOT** raised, lead small.

A76  
932  
QJ8  
QJ64

9543  
84  
K54  
10932

J82  
QJ10765  
A7  
K7

E S W N  
1H 1N P 3N  
All Pass

KQ10  
AK  
109632  
A85

Opening lead: Heart 8.

Declarer now takes the time at trick one to make a plan. She counts her sure winners:

3 spade winners

2 heart winners

1 club winner

0 diamond winner (no ace, no winner)

South knows that she needs 3 more winners to make this contract. She determines that diamonds are her project suit. She wins the first trick with Heart King and leads a small diamond.

It is now that West has to be on his toes.

We have all heard of second hand low. BUT if West woodenly plays the Diamond 4, declarer plays the D Q from dummy and East is forced to win the Diamond Ace. That is East's hand entry GONE with the wind.

Now East can set up the Hearts (by leading another Heart. The Hearts will now be good but East has no entry)

It is mandatory that West hop up with the Diamond King and lead his final Heart. This will drive out declarer's last Heart stopper. Now south has to lead another Diamond. East will win with D Ace and now run his long Heart suit. EW scores 4 Heart winners and Diamond Ace and King. Down 2.



Now let's look at another hand:

				643			
				52			
				AJ10974			
				K6			
A72						KJ109	
974						AQ1063	
52						8	
J10843						Q72	
E	S	W	N	Q85			
1H	1N	2H	3N	KJ8			
All Pass				KQ63			
				A95			

West dutifully leads partner's suit. Top of Nothing because he has raised partner's Hearts. East KNOWS that West cannot have an honour or he would have led a small card (Bottom of Something). East wins H Ace. East knows that if she leads back a Heart, the South will win the H Jack and also the H King.



East also knows that West cannot have much in his hand at all. North and South have 24 HCP at least between them and East has 12 HCP. West is marked with approximately 4 HCP.

Pursuing Hearts is quite futile. Time to shift gears. East leads the Spade J (top of an interior sequence). If South covers, West wins and returns another Spade. If South does not cover, West encourages with Spade 7. East continues. If South ducks again, West must unblock the suit and play the Spade Ace and now lead back another Spade. East's King drops South's Queen and it is a happy day for EW. Down one!



East used the **RULE OF 40** to determine how many points West could possibly hold. Add the number of points known in declarer and dummy and add your own; this leaves x number of points for partner. Defend accordingly.

## TEST YOUR PLAY

J42  
84  
KQJ764  
53

-----  
KQJ9653  
A93  
QJ10

A763  
A102  
5  
98764

E	S	W	N	KQ10985
P	1S	4H	4S	7
Dbl All Pass				1082
				AK2

West leads H King. Over to East who has to find a way to beat this contract now that he has doubled! It seems VERY unlikely that a second round of Hearts will live which means that EW would only get two tricks: Heart Ace and Spade Ace. UNLESS East could get West to lead a Diamond at trick two. Hmm. East could play the Heart 2, discouraging a Heart continuation but then West MIGHT choose to now lead a Club. Let's face it: Partners are not very good guessers.

East cannot count on partner to figure out to lead a Diamond at trick two. East must take the bull by the horns and overtake partner's H King with the Ace. East then leads Diamond 5. West wins it and if West does not continue with a Diamond...you guessed it....you get a new partner! East scores a ruff and NS is down one doubled.

It is true that EW can make 4 Hearts so NS did fine to bid 4S BUT EW could not make 5H (on a C lead by North, N gets a C ruff) so a plus is a plus. The important thing for EW is to beat the NS contract of 4S.



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KQ4  
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 J4

62  
 AKQ53  
 93  
 K632

AJ1093  
 J10  
 AKJ7  
 A5

E	S	W	N
1H	DbI	P	2C
P	2S	P	3S
P	4S	All Pass	

Opening lead: Heart 4

**Bidding Commentary:** As South, with a doubleton in the opener's suit, your takeout double followed by a new suit bid shows 17-18 'working' HCP (don't count the HJ). With a singleton in opener's suit, 16 HCP is enough to double and then bid a new suit. If your hand is not strong enough to meet these requirements, overcall. As North, you have enough to boost partner to 3S. Your hand has improved on the bidding and partner is sitting over there with some 17-18 points. You are an eyelash away from raising to 4S. As East, you are not strong enough to rebid 2H with only five hearts not to mention a minimum opening, not to mention a silent partner.

**Lead Commentary:** With three small in partner's unsupported suit, lead low. With three small in partner's supported suit, lead high.

**Play Commentary:** As South, if the defense starts with three rounds of hearts, trump low. West has shown three hearts by leading low-high. Pay attention to the second

card the opening leader plays after having led partner's unsupported suit. There's a world of difference between high-low and low-high.

**Play Commentary #2.** As South, the plan is to ruff two diamonds in dummy with high trumps. After trumping the third heart, play the AK and ruff a diamond high. If the queen has not appeared, cross to the CA and ruff the DJ high. You remain with four high trumps and a losing club. Making four.

**Defensive Commentary:** As East, if the CQ is led from dummy, cover. If a low club is led, play low.

**ED NOTE: SLOW DOWN. DO NOT PLAY SO QUICKLY AT TRICK ONE. COUNT YOUR LOSERS IN A TRUMP SUIT CONTRACT & COUNT WINNERS IN NO TRUMPS. TAKE 1 1/2 to 2 MINUTES AT THE START OF EVERY HAND TO MAKE A PLAN. ON ABOVE HAND, FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DO NOT COUNT 2 DIAMOND LOSERS IN SOUTH HAND, YOU MAY GO AHEAD AND DRAW TRUMPS. THIS WILL BE FATAL. SLOW DOWN!**

**RE. BIDDING ON ABOVE HAND: WE TEACH THAT YOU OVERCALL AT THE ONE LEVEL WITH 8-17 POINTS (INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION) AND A FIVE CARD SUIT. WITH ONLY 8-12, YOUR SUIT MUST BE OF EXCELLENT QUALITY (2 of top 3 honours or 3 of top 5 honours)**

**IF YOU OVERCALL AT THE TWO LEVEL (1S - 2C) YOU NEED CLOSER TO AN OPENING BID.**

**WITH 18 OR MORE POINTS (INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION), YOU DOUBLE FIRST AND THEN BID YOUR SUIT. THAT IS KNOWN AS THE BIG OVERCALL.**