

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 5 2
♥ Q 7
♦ J 10 5 2
♣ A K 9 4

13
10 **6**
11

West

♠ Q J
♥ A J 9 4
♦ K 8 4 3
♣ Q 6 5

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ 10 3
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ Q 9 6
♣ J 10 8 2

♠ A K 9 8 6 4
♥ 8 6 3
♦ A 7
♣ 7 3

North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♣ J

only a 25% chance.

If the high ♥ honors are split, but West holds the ♥T then a finesse of the ♥9 will force East to win with his high honor. You can return to your hand and then finesse West out of his other ♥ honor. This play has about a 50% chance of working so it is the one you should make.

The only time it is a mistake is when West holds the ♥K Q and East holds the ♥T. Even in that case though some Wests will "split their honors" and give it away.

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

Two choices come to mind - 2 NT or 2 ♥.

Of the two, 2 ♥ is better because it prevents a possible 4-4 ♥ fit from being lost. Partner rebids his ♠s.

Two opening hands equal one game. Since partner has 6 ♠ that game might as well be 4 ♠.

North would play 4 ♠.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads the ♣J. They play two more high ♣s.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 2 : Total = 4

You ruff the third ♣, then play ♠Q and ♠J. Come to your hand with the ♦A and pull the last trump. Now decide what to do with the ♥s.

If West has both ♥K and ♥Q then a simple finesse of the ♥J will bring in the contract. This is

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

Deal 3

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 5
♥ A 5 3 2
♦ J 7
♣ J 9 6 5

13
6 8
13

♠ A K
♥ 10 9 8
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A Q 10 8 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ Q 10 7 3
♥ K J 7 4
♦ Q 10 9 3
♣ 4

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A K 4 2
♣ K 7 3

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| 3 NT by North | | | |

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

With 14 points and only one biddable suit this was a snap. You open 1 ♣. Partner responds with 1 ♣. What do you bid?

This one isn't such a snap. You sure cannot support ♠s with only 2 of them, even good ones. You aren't supposed to rebid your ♣s without a 6-card suit. You hate to bid Notrump with neither of the two red suits stopped, and you cannot pass. So you bite the bullet and say 1 NT. Partner jumps it to 3 NT and you pass, hoping he can stop the red suits.

North plays 3 NT. It turns out partner can't stop ♥s either and the defenders reel off 4 ♥ tricks, then lead a small ♦.

Winners: ♠ 2 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 3 : Total = 7

while they were leading all those ♥ winners so you would not have discarded one of the ♣s from your hand. But you also had to be careful not to discard even one of dummy's ♣s, you need all three of them.

If the ♣s split 3-2 it wouldn't matter, but if West happens to have ♣ J x x then you will need dummy's third ♣ to make a finesse. You first play your ♣ A, then lead a small ♣ to dummy's ♣ K. East shows out on this ♣ so you know that West has ♣ J 9 left. You lead dummy's ♣ 7, finessing West out of the ♣ J.

This was a very difficult hand.

Deal 4
 South Deals
 None Vul

| | |
|---|--|
| ♠ 9 4 2 ♥ A Q 8 4 ♦ Q J 10 5 ♣ J 8 | ♠ A J 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 8 6 4 3 ♣ 9 5 3 2 |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|--|
|  | ♠ 7 6 ♥ J 10 9 5 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ Q 10 7 4 |
|---|--|

♠ K Q 10 8 3

♥ K 6 2

♦ A K

♣ A K 6

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| | | | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

4 ♣ by South
Lead: ♦ Q

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You have 23 points. You must open 2 ♣.

Partner responds 2 ♦ showing 7 or fewer points.

What do you bid?

Following partner's negative response you merely bid your suit at the cheapest level.

You bid 2 ♣ and partner jumps to 4 ♣.

Now what do you say?

Partner's first response told you he has a weak hand. It didn't suddenly turn into T or 11 points. Partner is merely pulling a "He Who Knows, Goes" bid. He thinks you belong in 4 ♣.

South plays 4 ♣. West leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 3 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 1 : Total = 4

3-3.

It is possible (one chance out of two) that East holds the ♥ A. You could pull trumps, ending in dummy, then lead toward your ♥ K.

It is almost certain that you could ruff your ♥ loser in dummy, but only if you play a ♥ at trick two, leading away from your ♥ K. The defenders will win the ♥ cheaply and probably play a trump. You win dummy's ♠ A and play another ♥ which they also win. They lead a second trump which you win in your hand. You now ruff the last ♥ with dummy's ♠ J, return to your hand, pull trumps and claim.

If instead you decide to lead a ♠ to dummy's ♠ J and lead a ♥ toward your ♥ K you might go down. West could win the ♥ A and play a second trump. When you played the next ♥ West would win again and play a third round of trumps. You would no longer be able to ruff the ♥ loser.