

♠♥♦♣ TAKE AN ADVANCE SACRIFICE ♠♥♦♣

No one is vulnerable and your partner opens 1♦. Your RHO overcalls 2♣. This is a weak jump overcall showing the equivalent of a weak-2 opening. What would you do with this hand?

S	South
♠	
♥	85
♦	1086
♣	AQJ97654

Some would raise partner's diamond suit; some would respond 3♣; some would jump to 4♣. If I were sitting with this hand, I would bid 5♣.

There are several reasons for this. My partner probably has 4 hearts which he will bid next, and I cannot support them. West will raise his partner's spade suit, no matter at what level I call. I will take another bid over 3 or 4 spades. The most effective time to do it is now. I don't want to make it easy for the opponents to find their 9+ card spade fit. This is called an "advance sacrifice." I don't expect to make 5♣, but I don't have any defense against their spade contract. In addition, we aren't vulnerable and we would have to be set 3 tricks to exceed the negative score we would get if they are allowed to play 4♣.

There is another upside to playing in 5♣. We might make it! Even if partner doesn't have the ♣K, 50% of the time, the ♣K is onside. Partner opened so he must have values that can add 2 or 3 tricks to the 8 tricks in your hand.

West doubled 5♣ which ended the bidding. West led the ♠6 and you see this:

N	North
♠	10942
♥	K63
♦	KQJ9
♣	K8

West leads ♠6

S	South
♠	
♥	85
♦	1086
♣	AQJ97654

You should be delighted to see this dummy. In addition to the 8 club tricks, you have a potential for 3 more in the red suits. The bidding suggests the two outstanding aces are in West and you can lead up to the dummy in these two suits and claim your 11 tricks.

Look at the entire deal:

D		N North		W N E S			
1		♠ 10942		1♦ 2♠ 5♣			
		♥ K63		X P P P			
		♦ KQJ9					
		♣ K8					
W West		E East					
♠ K86		♠ AQJ753					
♥ AJ97		♥ Q1042					
♦ A5432		♦ 7					
♣ 2		♣ 103					
		S South					
		♠					
		♥ 85					
		♦ 1086					
		♣ AQJ97654					
				5♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0			

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/yylqekal>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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