

♠♥♦♣ THE MAGIC OF VOIDS ♠♥♦♣

North dealt and opened 1♣. East overcalled 1♠, and this is your hand:

S	South
♠	K109842
♥	K8652
♦	J3
♣	

It's hard to believe that your RHO holds 5 spades and you have him beat – with 6 spades. You'd like to double, but your partner would surely take you out, if LHO didn't beat him to it.

You have only 7 HCP, of which the ♦J will certainly be useless. Should you pass, double or bid? A negative double would imply 4 Hearts. But since you have five Hearts, you can just bid 2♥.

West's passes and your partner raise you to 3♥. That makes your hand a whole lot better. Now that you have a fit, you can use Losing Trick Count. Your LTC is 6; 2 in each of your 3 suits. Your partner's opening hand usually has an LTC of 7 or 8. Your combined LTC is 13 or 14. Subtracting from 24, you are left with 10 or 11 winners. Certainly enough for a 4♥ contract.

How could a hand with only 7 HCP have a LTC of 6? That's better than a normal opening hand. The answer is the void in Clubs. Voids are magic to bridge hands.

The opponents remain silent and West leads the ♠10 against your 4♥ contract. How do you plan to make your contract?

N	North
♠	J7
♥	A74
♦	862
♣	AK643

West's Lead: ♠Q

S	South
♠	K109842
♥	K8652
♦	J3
♣	

