

CAREFUL BIDDING – CAREFUL PLAY

S	South
♠	A532
♥	KQJ7
♦	8
♣	K1085

It is two passes to you. The best opening bid for a 3-suited hand below, is one of the minor. After your 1♣, partner responds 1♥. This improves your hand significantly. Now you can add 3 points for the singleton diamond and 1 more point for the quality heart suit. This is worth a jump rebid of 3♥. Partner completes the auction bringing you to game.

Now you are dummy and partner declares 4♥. East leads the ♦A. Seeing your singleton diamond he switches to the ♣2. If you were in the North seat, how would you plan the play?

S	South
♠	A532
♥	KQJ7
♦	8
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East ♦A

N	North
♠	Q10
♥	A954
♦	Q1043
♣	Q63

Counting from your North hand, you have 1 spade loser, no heart losers as long as trump behave, 4 diamond losers and 1 or 2 club losers. Sometimes it easier to count losers from dummy's viewpoint. Dummy has 3 spade losers, 1 diamond and 1 or 2 club losers. One of the spade losers can be trumped in your hand. You can try to finesse for

the other spade loser. That means if you can limit the club losers to one you can make your contract.

You should look carefully at East switch to the ♣2. You have 7 clubs and are missing the ♣AJ. East wouldn't be leading away from the Ace, so you should play low from the dummy. West puts up the ♣A. Judging from that ♣2 lead, you should be placing the remaining honor with East. West returns another club which you win with the ♣Q in your hand.

Next you can finesse the ♠Q by leading a low spade from the dummy. West puts up ♠K. Now you have eliminated a spade loser. You then lead a low club from your hand and when East puts in the ♣9, you play him for the ♣J as well, and cover with the ♣10. West discards a diamond and you can now take the last two clubs and cross ruff the losing diamond and spade with the two remaining trump.

This is the full deal:

<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 5 </div>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> N North ♠ Q10 ♥ A954 ♦ Q1043 ♣ Q63 </div>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	P	1♣	P	1♥	P	3♥	P	4♥	P	P	P		P	
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P	1♥	P	3♥																			
P	4♥	P	P																			
P		P																				
<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> W West ♠ KJ74 ♥ 106 ♦ J7652 ♣ A4 </div>		<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> E East ♠ 986 ♥ 832 ♦ AK9 ♣ J972 </div>																				
	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> S South ♠ A532 ♥ KQJ7 ♦ 8 ♣ K1085 </div>		<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: 10px;"> ♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0 </div>																			

With careful play you made this game contract. But it took careful bidding with correct hand evaluation to reach the game contact.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/j68u2e4> 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