

Giving False Preference

Dealer: South
 Vul: Both
 Opening Lead: K

	North		
	Q5		
	Q74		
	A7632		
	1087		
West		East	
987		J32	
5		J1082	
KQ1094		J8	
9532		AKQJ	
	South		
	AK1064		
	AK963		
	5		
	64		

The Bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT ²	Pass! ³	1 1 ¹
Pass	2 5 ⁵	Pass	2 4 ⁴
Pass	4 7 ⁷	All Pass	3 6 ⁶

- 1 With 2 five card suits, we always bid the higher ranking one first.
- 2 North was too weak to bid her 5-card diamond suit. 1NT shows a hand of 6-9 points.
- 3 East is raring to bid with his 13 HCP. But what can he bid? He has no 5-card suit and if he doubles, partner is sure to bid diamonds. His best bid is to pass for now and hope the opponents end up in 3NT where he can take the first four club tricks.
- 4 South shows her 5-card heart suit at the 2-level. This usually shows a 4-card heart suit and no particular interest in playing in notrumps.

- 5 North has a decision to make. Holding 3 hearts and 2 spades he feels a 5-2 fit in spades will play better than a 4-3 in hearts. When you return to opener's first suit after opener shows a second suit, you are **giving preference**. Since you didn't support spades originally, this preference is usually based on a 2-card holding. When that preference is based on fewer cards than the holding in the opener's second suit, you are **giving false preference**.
- 6 South has something extra to show. Since the 2♥ bid is usually a bid showing 5-4 in the majors, she can show a 5-card heart suit by rebidding the hearts. She knew her partner holds 2 spades but there is a possibility that she also holds 3 hearts and was only **giving false preference**.
- 7 North takes a chance on a game bid of 4♥. First, she now knows there are 8 hearts between the partnership. Second, her hand has appreciated. With 8 HCP and a fifth diamond, she now adds 1 point for the doubleton spade. Also, 4 of her points are in her partner's suits and the minor suit losers will probably be covered by shortness in her partner's hand. Since South has shown 10 cards in the majors, she must have a minor suit distribution like either 0-3 or 2-1.

After the ♦K lead, South saw her losers as 2 clubs and perhaps a trump. She won the ♦A and led a trump from dummy, winning in hand. Then she played her two top spades and trumped the third in the dummy. She led her last trump, the ♥Q and got back to her hand with a diamond ruff. Now her spades were good except for the outstanding heart honor. She played spades until East trumped. Then East took his club winners but ended taking only 3 tricks, allowing South to make her 4♥ contract.

In this deal, North gave false preference and her partner used this information to give her another choice in the secondary suit.