

Hand 4 from Wed 5th Sep

♠ Q J 5 4 3

♥ 9 8 7 4

♦ 10 4 2

♣ A

Dealer W

Both Vul

♠ 8 7 2

♥ A Q 2

♦ J 8 5

♣ 9 7 3 2

♠ A K 9 6

♥ 6

♦ A K Q 6 3

♣ J 6 5

♠ 10

♥ K J 10 5 3

♦ 9 7

♣ K Q 10 8 4

7
7 17
9

Wednesday Board 4 - All vul							
NS	EW	Contract	By	NS	EW	MPs	
2	2	5D-3	E	300		12	0
1	7	4D-1	E	100		8	4
7	5	2S=	E		110	3	9
6	3	4S-2	E	200		10	2
5	1	2S-4	N		400	0	12
4	6	1D+1	E		90	6	6
3	4	3D=	E		110	3	9

Tuesday Board 4 - All vul							
NS	EW	Contract	By	NS	EW	MPs	
2	12	3NT=	W		600	1	15
1	20	3H-1	N		100	11	5
9	17	3NT=	W		600	1	15
8	15	5H-3	N		300	4	12
7	13	3S-3	E	300		16	0
6	11	3S=	E		140	6	10
5	18	2S=	E		110	8	8
16	4	4S-2	E	200		14	2
10	19	3H-1	S		100	11	5

On Wednesday everyone bid this hand differently. Here are the auctions that I recorded. West has the crucial hand. How would you have bid as West?

(a)	North	East	South	West	
				Pass	
	Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT	East/West 0% North/South 100%
	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	
	Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass	

(b)	North	East	South	West	
				Pass	
	Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass	East/West 33% North/South 67%
	1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass	
	3♥	4♦	Pass	Pass	
	Pass				

(c)	North	East	South	West	
				Pass	
	Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT	East/West 75% North/South 25%
	2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	
	Pass				

(d)	North	East	South	West	
				Pass	
	Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT	East/West 17% North/South 83%
	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	
	Pass	4♠			

(e)	North	East	South	West	
				Pass	
	Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT	East/West 100% North/South 0%
	2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	

	North	East	South	West	
(f)				Pass	East/West 50% North/South 50%
	Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass	
	Pass				

	North	East	South	West	
(g)				Pass	East/West 75% North/South 25%
	Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT	
	2♥	2♠	Pass	3♦	
	Pass	Pass	Pass		

Two pairs in the experienced group found the best contract of 3NT but this is a challenging auction for East/West. It is harder when North/South get into the action too.

Most of the senior players have a two suited overcall method where South can bid Stop 2NT that describes their 5-5 shape in Hearts and Clubs (weak or strong). This makes it difficult for East/West to find their best contract.

Our Wednesday group haven't got around to making Michael's Cue Bids so supposing South makes a straightforward overcall. Most auctions started 1♦ 1♥ 1NT. What happens next?

	North	East	South	West
				Pass
	Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT
	3♥ (1)	3♠ (2)	4♥ (3)	Dble
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1) A bid of 2♥ might be considered here based on **'Losing Trick Count'** - bidding to the level of the fit based on expecting partner's overcall to be an 8-loser. However, 3♥ would be a better alternative here. North has good shape that complements his partner's overcall. Here, the **'Law of Total Tricks'** comes into play. A deciding factor might be that a 3 level bid is sure to hamper the opponents quest to find their right place.

- 2) This bid is a reverse showing a strongish unbalanced opening hand with shape at least 5-4 in Diamonds and Spades.
- 3) Only 9HCP but is a 6-loser with a known 8-card trump fit. After partner raised to 3♥ then this hand is worth a 4♥ bid
- 4) On the bidding it looks likely that West has two Heart tricks on an almost certain Heart lead. Partner has a strong hand. We probably had 3NT on but 4NT is a difficult call. If partner is good for his HCPs then Double might produce a good score. It seems this is the poorest hand of the four but has an almost certain two tricks in NTs. Surely partner can make a few more elsewhere. West feels disappointed when it only goes two off for 500 but this produces a good score when other E/W pairs missed bidding their game.

Only West can see the potential for the only makeable Game on this hand. Whenever possible 3NT should always be considered in preference to a Minor suit Game. Eleven tricks are often hard to get and would score the same anyway. Here NT is a much better prospect than 5♦ as partner is known to have points and with an almost certain Heart lead the double stop is worth more than it's face value. Well done to those pairs bidding and making 3NT

