

## Sacrifice Bidding – Recap

Sacrifice bids are likely to be profitable when you have a 10-card or greater trump fit and an unbalanced hand.

NS Vul

West  
 ♠ J 3  
 ♥ 8 6 4  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ K J T 7 6 5 4

East  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ Q 9 7  
 ♦ K 9 7 6 5 3  
 ♣ A 9 3

West	North	East	South
3♣	4♣	5♣	

East expects a 10-card fit so he takes the sacrifice, which is likely a gainful venture (down three, costing 500 when doubled) despite West's terrible hand. If one of East's diamonds were a spade, he should pass because then his hand would be balanced.

Do not sacrifice if you have made a weak bid — it is up to your *partner* to decide whether or not to sacrifice.

NS Vul

West  
 ♠  
 ♥ A J 9 8 7 5 2  
 ♦ T 9 2  
 ♣ 4 3 2

East  
 ♠ A 8 6 2  
 ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ 8 6 3  
 ♣ A Q T

West	North	East	South
3♥	3♣	4♥	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Despite the favourable vulnerability, West should not bid 5♥ because he has made a weak bid. East becomes the captain and also passes because of the balanced shape. There is a good chance to beat 4♣. The four trumps in the East hand will certainly make life difficult for declarer, and there may be two or three club tricks,

Once you decide to sacrifice, do so *immediately*. Do not wait for the opponents to reach their final contract.

None Vul

West  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ 5 2  
 ♦ K Q 9 8 6 5 4  
 ♣ Q 8 5

East  
 ♠ J T 2  
 ♥ A J T 6 4  
 ♦ J T 7 2  
 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
3♦	Double	5♦	

East anticipates the opponents will bid game in spades or clubs so he exerts the maximum pressure (routine at any vulnerability except unfavourable). Note the opponents can make at least 5♣, your only likely trick being the Ace of hearts.

If the opponents bid over your sacrifice (instead of doubling), it is usually wise to pass. Be content that you pushed them up.

Both Vul

West  
 ♠ K Q T 7 5 4  
 ♥ Q 8 2  
 ♦ J 9  
 ♣ 4 3

East  
 ♠ A 9 8 2  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ 5 3 2  
 ♣ K J T 6 2

West	North	East	South
2♣	Double	4♣	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Once the sacrifice is taken in 4♣, the best chance for a good score is to pass and hope you can defeat 5♥ (no matter what the vulnerability). If you bid on to 5♣ it would defeat the purpose of the 4♣ bid.