

Pre-empts – A Recap and Some Pitfalls

<div><div><div>♠ 64</div><div>♥ KJ98753</div><div>♦ Q42</div><div>♣ 6</div></div><div><div>♠ A1097</div><div>♥ 4</div><div>♦ AK93</div><div>♣ AJ105</div></div><div><div>♠ K3</div><div>♥ AQ102</div><div>♦ 87</div><div>♣ 98742</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ852</div><div>♥ 6</div><div>♦ J1065</div><div>♣ KQ3</div></div></div>	<div>Talk Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♥</div><div>Pass</div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>X</div><div>All pass</div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div>Much bridge is about probabilities. We preempt because time has shown that is a successful strategy. Sometimes we come unstuck and suffer a massive penalty. Here North has been caught speeding. He's done nothing wrong but the resulting penalty of minus 1,100 more than compensates the opponents. Their 3N game scores far less and even with their bidding socks on making 6♣ translates to just +920 their way.</div>
<div><div><div>♠ A643</div><div>♥ AQ102</div><div>♦ 87</div><div>♣ 987</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ1098</div><div>♥ 6</div><div>♦ Q1065</div><div>♣ Q63</div></div><div><div>♠ -void-</div><div>♥ KJ98753</div><div>♦ J42</div><div>♣ K42</div></div><div><div>♠ K875</div><div>♥ 4</div><div>♦ AK93</div><div>♣ AJ105</div></div></div>	<div>Talk Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>Pass</div><div>1♣/♦</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>1♥</div><div>Pass</div><div>1♠</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div><div><div>All pass (West might double)</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div>That's the auction if East judges not to open with 3♥ (when the contract will be doubled and defended for possibly minus 500). Moreover this opening bid would have cut across partner's intentions. Left to their own devices (East being warned from opening by the void in spades) North South will reach 4♠ and the 5-0 trump break will be an unwelcome surprise. Game cannot make.</div>
<div><div><div>♠ 2</div><div>♥ AQ972</div><div>♦ AJ9</div><div>♣ 9875</div></div><div><div>♠ K6</div><div>♥ J10</div><div>♦ KQ542</div><div>♣ J1064</div></div><div><div>♠ Q87</div><div>♥ 43</div><div>♦ 10876</div><div>♣ AKQ3</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ109543</div><div>♥ K865</div><div>♦ 3</div><div>♣ 2</div></div></div>	<div>Talk Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>1♥</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♥</div></div><div><div>All pass</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div>A hand indicating why allowing a preemptor to hold a side 4card major is not a good idea. If South opens 3♠ North just doesn't have enough to respond. That'll be +170 but the heart game will never be reached. So South should pass and await developments. Twelve tricks can be made in hearts by setting up the spade suit.</div>