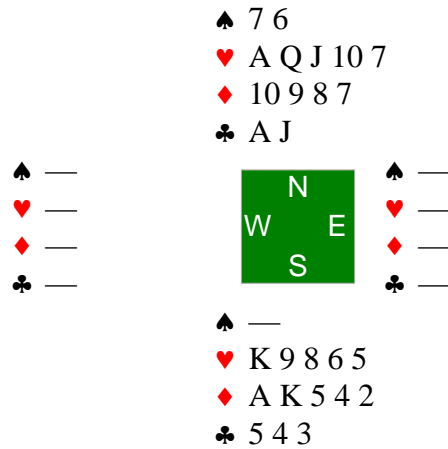


What Would You Do?

IMPS
Both Vul Dlr S
Opening Lead J of ♠



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♥	1 ♥
			?

Good morning! Welcome to this the 19th session of Shark's Pointer's Online!
I'm stealing today's theme from the TV show - "What Would You Do?" I'm going to try to show you some particularly interesting real deals that came up recently - and solicit your opinion as to "What Would You Do?". Let's jump right into the first hand....

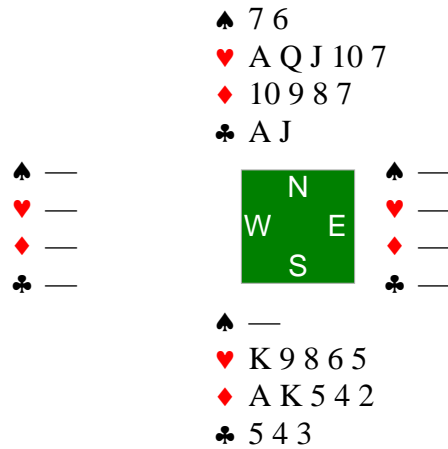
Let's take a minute to review the bidding. Both Vul as dealer "What Would You Do?".

Let's assume you open the bidding 1 ♥, your LHO overcalls 1 ♠, and partner bids 2 ♠, showing a limit raise or better in hearts. RHO now bids 4 ♥ showing a bid spade raise. Now, "What Would You Do?"

If you bid 5 ♦, this bid was helpful in 3 ways - 1st it was lead directional. It also showed your distribution in case partner needed to make a decision at a higher level whether to compete or defend. Finally, it suggested a spade control. You certainly wouldn't be bidding at the 5 level with 2 quick spade losers.

What Would You Do?

IMPS
Both Vul Dlr S
Opening Lead J of ♠



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♥	1 ♥
Pass	?		5 ♦

Now put yourself in the North seat. "What Would You Do?"

At this table, North went "all in" and jumped to 6H!

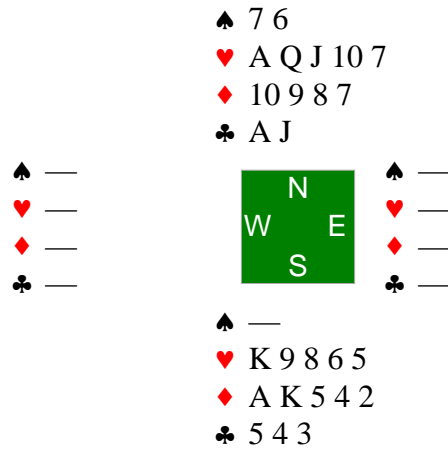
Partner's response surprised you, but it really makes a lot of sense. He knows you could never accept any invite with a trump suit headed at best by K-9. He has a club control, and he knows opps don't have a lot of losers. Your diamonds should be pretty good, considering your hearts are so anemic and you're bidding freely at the 5 level. As little as x Kxxxx AKQxx xx and 6H is cold. As you can see, your actual hand isn't far from what partner envisioned.

You ruff the opening lead and play a heart to dummy - and East shows out! Now that's very, very interesting. He's known to hold 5 or 6 spades to the Ace and a heart void. Since West didn't lead a club honor, East almost certainly has at least one club honor.

Notice anything peculiar about the diamond suit? It is blocked! Missing an even number of diamonds (4) we know that they are more likely to split 3-1 than 2-2.

Do you remember the percentages? 3-1 = 49.74% 2-2 = 40.70% 4-0 = 9.57%

What Would You Do?



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♥	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

6 ♥ by South

I assume you will ruff the opening lead and draw the 3 missing trumps, then play on diamonds.

Does it matter which hand you win the last trump in? If you lose a diamond, you're still home free because you can still pitch dummy's club J on your 5th diamond - so long as you are able to get back to your hand to cash your long diamond.

Do you foresee any problems? Problem is that do to the diamond blockage, you may have an impossible mission trying to get to your hand to cash your fifth diamond if you lose a diamond and they force you to ruff another spade with your last trump.

So, foreseeing the problems, let's assume you are very careful to win the 3rd round of trumps in dummy and lead the 10 of diamonds.

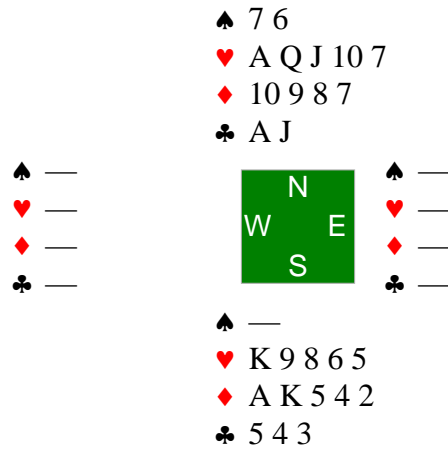
Let's go thru a couple of scenarios. If East plays low, "What Would You Do"? If you duck and lose to a singleton diamond honor a spade will come back and you are sure to go down. If diamonds are 2-2 you are fine. If you go up and diamonds and East started with QJx, you also have to go down. East will eventually win a diamond and tap you. There's no way you can get to your established diamond winner.

What Would You Do?

IMPS

Both Vul Dlr S

Opening Lead J of ♠



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♥	1 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	5 ♦

6 ♥ by South

Before you decide. Let's go back and revisit the bidding.

The bidding is extremely revealing - especially in light of the 3-0 heart split. West passed 5D, and nobody sacrificed in 6S. East must be thinking 6S is going down, and he must think that he has good defensive prospects against 6H.

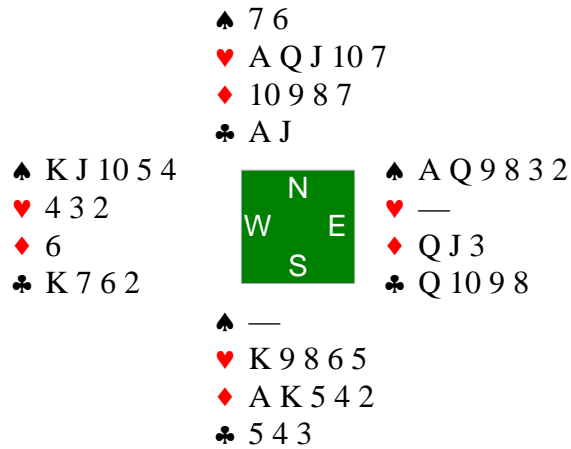
The fact that the opps are letting you play 6 ♥, the fact that West passed 5 ♦ and didn't X and didn't bid 5 ♠ should all be steering you into thinking diamonds are 3-1. East's not bidding over 6H is consistent with someone thinking he might have a spade trick and either a club or a diamond trick on defense.

So, you can essentially "see" all the cards - how do you play the hand?

I think the evidence suggests that East started with QJx of diamonds and is assuming he can defeat 6H, but he has no chance to make 6S. If you come to this conclusion, you should draw 3 rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and lead the 10 of diamonds - intending to run it if East plays low. If East covers, it is easy - but once again you have to be careful. You need to Win the diamond in hand and now immediately play a low diamond - intending to concede a diamond winner to East. East can win and force you in spades, but now you are in control. A low diamond to dummy and the 4th diamond back to your hand to cash the long diamond

What Would You Do?

IMPs
 J of ♠
 South Deals
 Both Vul



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♥	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

6 ♥ by South

Here was the actual layout.

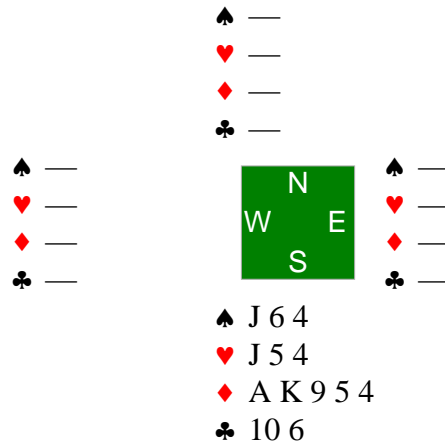
In practice, declarer misguessed and went down 1. This was the bad news.

The good news was that this was played at 3 other tables and these were the results at the other tables - At 2 tables the opps played 5SX making for +850. At the 4th table, they were in 4SX making 5 for +990! So going down in the slam won your side 13 Imps!

Let's look at another hand...

What Would You Do?

Dealer West
Both Vul
IMPs



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥	?

Here's a tough bidding problem.

Your partner opens 1 ♣ in second seat both vul at IMPs. In your methods 1 ♣ could be short if and only if partner started with 4 ♠ 4 ♥ 3 ♦ and 2 ♣. Your RHO overcalls 1 ♥.

Now... "What Would You Do?"

Here are the options - Pass, 1 NT, 2D, or Double

The problem with Pass is you have 9 high card points, clearly we own more than half the deck. As a rule of thumb it is bad practice to keep secrets from partner.

The problem with 1N is you don't have a heart stopper. Partner will expect one. If partner has Kxx you clearly should be playing NT from the other side.

The problem with 2D is you promise 10+ hcp and you only have 9 - including 2 Jacks of unknown value. You don't have a known fit and it is forcing. We have no idea where we are headed.

The problem with X is you strongly imply 4 spades and you only have Jxx.

What is your vote? I decided to X. You will be amazed at the entire deal!

What Would You Do?

Dealer West
Both Vul
IMPs
West Deals
None Vul

	♠ 6 2											
	♥ A K 10 8 6											
	♦ —											
	♣ A K Q 9 7 3											
♠ Q 10 9 4	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K 8 7	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ —		♥ Q 9 7 3 2										
♦ Q 8 7 3 2		♦ J 10 6										
♣ 8 6 4 2		♣ J										
	♠ J 5 3											
	♥ J 5 4											
	♦ A K 9 5 4											
	♣ 10 5											

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥	Dbl
All pass			

1 ♥× by East

I doubled and it went pass pass pass. I led the Ace of ♦, followed with the K and another diamond. Partner pitched both her spades and ruffed the 3rd diamond. Partner shifted to clubs.

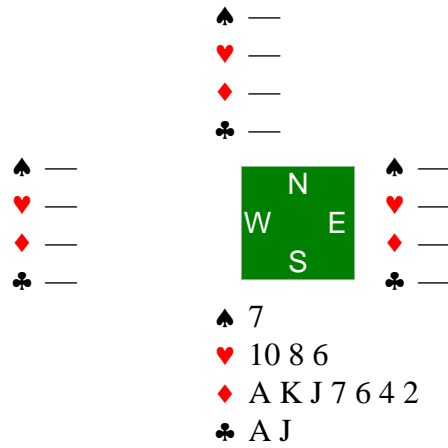
When the smoke cleared, East scored only 2 tricks. -5 doubled vulnerable 1400!

WOW! Can you believe it?

I still don't know if my double was the technically correct bid. I liked it at the time. I really like it now!

How about 1 more hand?

What Would You Do?



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	?

This hand actually occurred the other night. For reasons that may not become clear to all, I have dubbed this my "Plymouth Rock Special" !

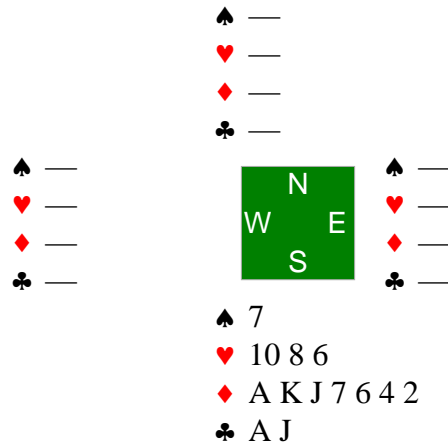
You're sitting South as dealer neither vul at IMPs and open 1 ♦. Partner responded 1 ♥. Back to you. "What Would You Do?"

The options might reasonably be 2 ♦, 3 ♦, or even 2 ♥!

Our South, made a pretty descriptive 3 ♦ bid. Opps were silent and now North bid 4 ♥!

Now what would you do?

What Would You Do?



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	?

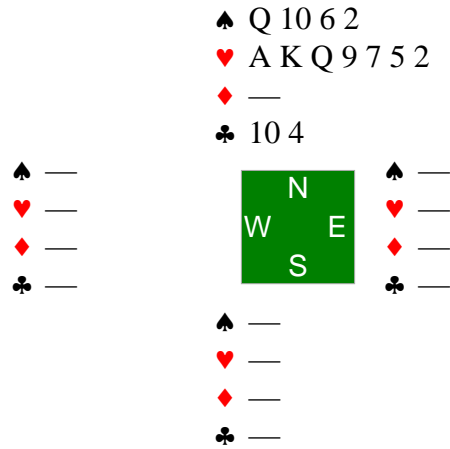
Sure sounds like partner has at least 6 and likely 7 hearts.

Now what would you do?

Our South trotted out Blackwood and after partner bid 5 ♠, South was pretty much forced to bid 6 ♥ - which was promptly doubled by West!

Now let's turn the tables and take a look at the North hand...

What Would You Do?



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 N
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥
Dbl	?		

North has a 7th heart and a diamond void. Sounds like the double was a Lightener double looking for a diamond ruff.

"What Would You Do?"

I sat North and promptly redoubled!

What Would You Do?

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 6 2			
♥ A K Q 9 7 5 2			
♦ —			
♣ 10 4			
♠ A K 9 8 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 5 3	
♥ 4 3		♥ J	
♦ 10		♦ Q 9 8 5 3	
♣ K 6 5 3 2		♣ Q 9 8 7	
		♠ 7	
		♥ 10 8 6	
		♦ A K J 7 6 4 2	
		♣ A J	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 N
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥
Dbl	Rdbl	All pass	

6 ♥×× by North

North has a 7th heart and a diamond void. Sounds like the double was a Lightener double looking for a diamond ruff.

Surprisingly, East led a spade not a diamond! Didn't matter much. Declarer had an easy time scoring up 12 tricks.

Do you know the score for 6 ♥ doubled and redoubled non vulnerable?

Start with $6 \times 30 = 180$ and redouble that or multiply by 4. $180 \times 4 = 720$. Now add, 300 for the game bonus. That comes to 1020. 500 more for the non vul slam bonus and finally 100 for the redoubled "insult". $720 + 300 + 500 + 100 = 1620!$

Have you ever visited the Plymouth Rock? Do you know what date is engraved on the rock where the Pilgrims landed in the Mayflower? You guessed it...."1620"! So, I call this hand the "Plymouth Rock Special".

Hope you enjoyed today's hands.

We started with a 22 combined HCP slam that could have been made, but went down and still won 13 IMPs. Then we made an unorthodox negative double that resulted in a 1400 number - at the 1 level. And now - a Plymouth Rock Special on 23 combined HCP! See u next week.