

North deals. North-South vulnerable.

S Q 9 5
H A K 10 2
D J
C Q J 7 6 5

S K 7 2
H J 9 4
D A K 10 9
C A 10 4

S A 8 6
H Q 8 5
D 5 4 3
C K 9 8 2

S J 10 4 3
H 7 6 3
D Q 8 7 6 2
C 3

North	East	South	West
1 C	Pass	1 D (?)	Pass
1 H	Pass	Pass	Pass

So when should you cheat on bidding with fewer than 6 HCP when partner opens with a suit bid. First, I'm happy if you answer "Never."

And I think my panel would join me in broadening that Never: If partner opens a major suit (thereby promising at least a 5-card suit) we would almost always Pass with fewer than 6 support points. The only exception I can think of would be if partner opened 1**H** and I had 7 or more spades. I might then bid 1**S** and later keep bidding a minimum number of spades until partner passes.

When partner opens a minor, especially 1**C**, there is more reason to consider cheating. So when Steve Phelps (North) opened 1**C**, I decided to try 1**D**, hoping he wouldn't jump in clubs or NT. Here we were lucky. West has a real problem trying to bid, and Phelps brought home his 1**H** bid while the opponents could make NT.

I sent the South cards to my poll group and I'm afraid they all said they would Pass with my hand.