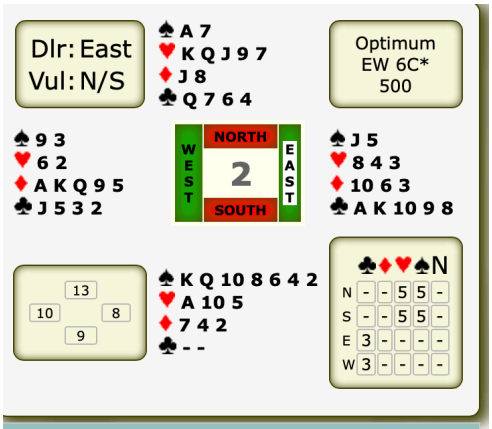
This hand is all about bidding and there are several options. Mostly the hand was played in H's with 5 playing there and 3 managing to bid game. The other 3 played in S's with only one bidding game. Only half managed to bid game, with only 1 in a Spade game. Some may have opened a weak 2S or 3S's but a 6 loser hand makes it too strong for this weak bid.



Board No 2 N/S Vul Dealer East

NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
7	11	4♥	N	♣A	+3	710		13	1
16	5	4♠	S	♦A	+1	650		8	6
15	3	2♠	S	♦A	+3	200		2	12
10	8	3♥	N	♦3	+2	200		2	12
14	2	3♠	S	♦A	+2	200		2	12
13	1	4♥	N	♦10	+2	680		10	4
12	6	4♥	N	♣A	+3	710		13	1
9	4	2♥	N	♣K	+5	260		6	8

So, should you open 1S? This would be better than a weak opening but with partner not having bid yet it might push you too high if you have a misfit. The final option is to pass and await developments, which in my judgment is the best choice.

1. PASS
2. 1S
3. 4S

West is third in hand, should they open 1D? **YES,** because they want a Diamond lead. North overcalls a Heart. West should now bid 2D and South has a tough decision. With few entries to hand and a Heart fit the first decision is which suit to bid, a known fit in H's or show the S suit? The answer depends on whether a bid of 2S is 100% forcing in your partnership system. If so, 2S is a good call as there may be a double fit with slam potential. This should show **a minimum of a 6 card suit and game** or slam interest. If 2S's is not forcing you should **bid 4H's** as you know partner is almost certain to have a Diamond shortage. Even if partner has 3 small D's but has the SA and top H's game is likely.

When the bidding comes back to East after West and North pass 4H what does East know? They may have 1 or 2D tricks + 2C tricks but the bidding points to a shapely hand for South. Freely bidding game having passed originally suggests shortage or a void in a minor. **Bid 5C's**, this gives partner a choice to correct to D's or bid 6C's if the opponents bid on.

After 5C's, South should bid 5H's as they only require partner to hold the SA or DK and the Club void is looking useful. **What should west do?** On this hand, with the favourable vulnerability and the obviously shapely hands a bid of 6C's, confirms the fit and suggests a Diamond lead from partner.

6C's will go 3 off for 500 while 5H's or 5S's will make 650. Three declarers made all 13 tricks which means a Club instead of a Diamond was led.

Interesting that no E/W pair competed / sacrificed with such favourable vulnerability.