

02/08/2021 Hand of the Week 71: Distributional hands

S	med029
♠	K
♥	AQ109732
♦	J74
♣	A9

Well we all like a nice distributional hand!

The hand is too strong for a pre-emptive 3♥ So I open 1♥

West overcalls 4♣ and partner bids 4♥

Now what?!

It can be difficult to judge what to do in these positions, it isn't really clear how strong partners hand is, and although the Clubs are covered the diamonds look vulnerable.

Will you pass or bid on?

On the night I passed

Now lets have a quick look at it from West's point of view!

W	Neilhfxrob
♠	J
♥	8
♦	Q2
♣	KJ8765432

Would you be tempted to try and find a sacrifice in clubs?

In general when pre-empting it is best to bid as high as possible the first time, so in retrospect 5♣ might have been better the first time round with the 9 card suit and perhaps North would not have bid?

As it is the game it up and it is likely that NS will find 5♥ or a double if you bid on now

The full hand:

<div>3</div> <div>D</div>		<div>N Erika Pick</div> <div>           ♠ AQ32            ♥ K654            ♦ K109            ♣ Q10         </div>	<div>W N E S</div> <div>           4♣ P   4♥ P   P   1♥ P         </div>
<div>W Neilhfxrob</div> <div>           ♠ J            ♥ 8            ♦ Q2            ♣ KJ8765432         </div>			<div>E GeorgeP53</div> <div>           ♠ 10987654            ♥ J            ♦ A8653            ♣         </div>
	<div>S med029</div> <div>           ♠ K            ♥ AQ109732            ♦ J74            ♣ A9         </div>		<div>4♥ S   NS: 0 EW: 0</div>

If South plays the diamonds correctly, they only lose 1 trick, and can throw their other losers on the spades, making 12 tricks.

West can use the diamond entry to finesse clubs for 1 loser, but will only make 9 tricks. If the vulnerability was reversed 7♣X-4 might end up being a good sacrifice against the slam but the hand is generally best left for NS.