

W	med029
♠	J98
♥	1097
♦	KQJ863
♣	5

After you open weak 2♦, North overcalls 2♥, and partner jumps directly to 4♠

South bids 5♥!

If you think 5♥ is making then 5♠ looks like a reasonable sacrifice, if you are not sure it is probably best to leave it and take your chances defending

The bidding seems to have progressed quite quickly, lets take a moment to catch our breath.

North has an opening hand with at least 5 hearts

What about partner?

They must have at most 1 diamond and a strong running spade suit- perhaps 8 cards with 2 honours, which would have qualified for a 4♠ open without any other bidding. It is possible they have an intermediate strength hand, again with a 7 card spade suit headed by AKQ, or an eight card suit. With a stronger hand partner might have cue bid

What about South?

They either think 4♠ has a reasonable chance of making, but they cannot afford to go more than 2 off at this level so they must have some strength. With points and defensive values I would expect a double, so they have either pre-empted, or think 5♥ has a chance of making- I would expect 8-10 points, at least 3 hearts with an honour and some strength and length in clubs for potential discards.

Does this help you make a choice?

Note South bid means it is more likely partner has a 'traditional' pre-empt. If partner has any reasonable strength then South would have passed. NS likely have some sort of fit in hearts and clubs.

If you think 5♥ is making then 5♠ looks like a reasonable sacrifice, if you are not sure it is probably best to leave it and take your chances defending?

We are unlikely to come into more than 1 spade trick. Leading a diamond may establish a trick but we may not get back to hand to cash it. It will really depend on the opponents strength in clubs. Again, after South bids they likely have some strength there- the only likely defence is an outside chance you could lead your singleton to partners A♣ and get a ruff back, but you are more likely to be leading into a finesse.

What about declaring in spades? Assuming NS have a 9 card heart fit, partner has at most a doubleton. The issue is likely to be entries to had to run your spades?

Have you decided yet?

The full hand:

<div> <div>D</div> <div>20</div> </div>	<div>N</div> <div>Ridgwelled</div> <div> <div>♠ Q</div> <div>♥ AQJ842</div> <div>♦ A1042</div> <div>♣ J2</div> </div>	<div>W</div> <div>2♦</div> <div>5♠</div> <div>P</div>	<div>N</div> <div>2♥</div> <div>P</div> <div>P</div>	<div>E</div> <div>4♠</div> <div>P</div> <div>P</div>	<div>S</div> <div>5♥</div> <div>X</div>
	<div>W</div> <div>med029</div> <div> <div>♠ J98</div> <div>♥ 1097</div> <div>♦ KQJ863</div> <div>♣ 5</div> </div>		<div>E</div> <div>Erika Pick</div> <div> <div>♠ AK1076543</div> <div>♥ 3</div> <div>♦ 5</div> <div>♣ Q93</div> </div>		
	<div>S</div> <div>bill7nt</div> <div> <div>♠ 2</div> <div>♥ K65</div> <div>♦ 97</div> <div>♣ AK108764</div> </div>				
					<div>5♠x E</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>

On the night 5♠X goes one off

What about 5♥? East can either lead A♠, or more likely their singleton diamond. North may decide to play 2 rounds of trumps from hand, then 2 clubs and trump a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of clubs, returning to table with K♥. However, this play will fail as West trumps the second round of clubs and then wins a diamond and a spade. If North instead decides to cash trumps and then finesse the clubs the contract makes as the cards lie, but again there is a risk of losing a club a diamond and a spade.

Can the bidding help us? East's lead can be seen to be a singleton from the bidding (West has 6 and you hold 6 diamonds in NS). East should have eight spades for the 4 level pre-empt, so has only 4 cards in clubs and diamonds. Play the AK♥ of hearts- if they break 2-2 then clubs must also be 2-2. If either opponent shows out it should tell you the club distribution- if West has 3 the only hope is to try and drop a singleton Q♣, but if East has 3 you can safely cash the A♣ **dropping the J♣ to unblock the suit**, return to hand with a 3<sup>rd</sup> heart, and play the 2♣ toward the A-10.