

Who is the Captain?



Determining the Captain

- In every bidding sequence, there is a team captain.
- The captain will be the person who knows the total values of the partnership first.
- Most of the time it is the responder, but not always.
 - The captain determines how high the partnership can go.
 - And what the contract (suit or no trump) will be.

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	2nt	pass
3 ♦	pass	5 ♦	all pass

When you're the captain, and you have a big hand, take it slow.

♠ 10 9
 ♥ Q 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 10 9 7 6 5

♠ Q J 8 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A K 10 8 7 5 4

♣ J

♠ A K 7 6
 ♥ A J 7 5
 ♦ Q 9 2
 ♣ A 9

♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ K 8 4 3 2

North
2 ♣
2nt

East
pass
pass

South
2 ♦
3nt

West
pass
all pass

*The captain must
do the math.*

♠ 10 5 3
♥ 10 9 7 6 2
♦ 9 7
♣ 8 7 4

♠ A K Q 6
♥ A K J
♦ K J 4
♣ K 10 9

♠ J 9 7
♥ Q
♦ A Q 5 2
♣ Q J 5 3 2

♠ 9 4 2
♥ 8 5 4 3
♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ A 6

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	2 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥			

When you open a weak-two bid, let partner be captain.

North's hand

♠ 6

♥ A K J 9 7 4

♦ J 4

♣ 10 9 7 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
1 nt	pass	2 ♠	pass
2 nt	all pass		

Here South is captain. Captain says 2 spades is our max.

North's hand

♠ 6 2

♥ A K 10 9

♦ A J 4

♣ J 9 7 6

South's hand

♠ A 10 9 5 4 3

♥ 8

♦ 10 7 3

♣ Q 5 4

North	East	South	West	<i>When you open 1 no trump, you make partner the captain.</i>
1 nt	pass	2 ♦	pass	
2 ♥	pass	pass	2 ♠	
3 ♥	all pass			

North's hand

♠ Q 10

♥ K 9 6 4

♦ A K 9 4

♣ A 7 6

South's hand

♠ 3 2

♥ A J 8 7 5

♦ 10 7 3

♣ 10 5 4

North	East	South	West
----	-----	1 ♦	pass
1 ♥	pass	4 ♥	pass
pass	pass		

*The captain must
do the math.*

North's hand

♠ K 10 8

♥ K J 4 3

♦ K 8 5 3

♣ A 6

South's hand

♠ A 6 4

♥ A 9 6 4

♦ A Q J 7 2

♣ K

North	East	South	West
----	-----	1 ♣	1 ♦
1nt	pass	pass	pass

North's hand

♠ K Q J 8

♥ 10 5

♦ A 9 3

♣ J 9 8 4

West's hand

♠ 3 2

♥ Q 7 4

♦ K Q 10 7 4 2

♣ A 6

South's hand

♠ A 9 6 5

♥ A K 6 3

♦ 5

♣ Q 10 5 2

North	East	South	West
----	-----	pass	pass
??			

North's hand

♠ 4 2

♥ A K Q J 10 4

♦ A Q 3

♣ A K

South's hand

♠ J 7 6 3

♥ 9 5

♦ 5 2

♣ Q 8 5 4 2

North
1nt
??

East
pass

South
2nt

West
pass

*South shifts the
captaincy to North.*

North's hand

♠ K J 7

♥ A K 9 5

♦ A 8

♣ 10 9 7 3

South's hand

♠ Q 7 6

♥ 8 5

♦ K Q 5 2

♣ J 8 5 4

North

1 ♦

East

pass

South

??

West

*South bids 2 nt,
makes North
captain.*

North's hand

♠ A 9

♥ A 9 5

♦ A K 9 8 7 6

♣ 10 9

South's hand

♠ Q 7 6

♥ 8 5

♦ Q 10 2

♣ A K J 8 5

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 nt	pass
3 ♣	pass	??	

*South bids 2 nt,
North shows a
short suit, South is
captain.*

North's hand

♠ K 9 4

♥ A J 9 5 3

♦ A Q 10 6

♣ 9

South's hand

♠ Q 7 6

♥ K Q 8 2

♦ K 4 2

♣ K J 4

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	pass
??			

*North is captain,
but North needs
more information.*

North's hand

♠ A 9

♥ A Q 9 7 5 3

♦ A Q 10 6

♣ 9

South's hand

♠ 8 7 6

♥ K J 8 2

♦ K 4 2

♣ K 8 4

North

2 ♠

??

East

double

South

3 ♠

West

3 ♥

N/S Vul

North's hand

♠ A Q J 9 8 3

♥ Q 9

♦ 10 6 7 5

♣ 9

South's hand

♠ K 10 2

♥ K 8

♦ J 9 3

♣ 10 8 5 4 3

North

1 ♠

??

East

pass

South

3 ♦*

West

pass

*4-card support

10-12 points

North's hand

♠ A Q J 9 8 3

♥ Q 9

♦ K 10 7 5

♣ 9

South's hand

♠ K 10 7 2

♥ K 8

♦ J 9 3

♣ A 8 5 4

North

1 ♠

??

East

pass

South

3 ♦*

West

pass

*4-card support

10-12 points

North's hand

♠ A Q 9 8 3

♥ Q J

♦ K 10 7 5

♣ 9 7

South's hand

♠ K 10 7 2

♥ K 8

♦ J 9 3

♣ A 8 5 4