

How Would You Bid this Hand?

By Neil H. Timm

Playing in the Villages on Monday June 22, sitting E-W, the following Hand 16 was played. The Dealer was West and E-W is Vulnerable.

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------------|-------|---|-------|
| | | ♠ | K8 | | |
| | | ♥ | K1094 | | |
| | | ♦ | 8762 | | |
| | | ♣ | A103 | | |
| ♠ | A1076 | N W E S | | ♠ | QJ954 |
| ♥ | 875 | | | ♥ | J |
| ♦ | QJ954 | | | ♦ | A103 |
| ♣ | K | | | ♣ | 972 |
| | | ♠ | 32 | | |
| | | ♥ | AQ632 | | |
| | | ♦ | K | | |
| | | ♣ | QJ865 | | |

Using the 4321-hand count method, the HCP were: W-N-E-S; 10-10-8-12.

The bidding would clearly go: Pass-Pass-Pass -?? – As South, do you bid or Pass?

Using the **Casino Rule** – also called the Rule of 15 or Pearson Points, one counts their HCP and the number of spades and if that total is 15 or more one should bid and if the total is less than 15, one should Pass.

So, YOU PASS! I hope not YOU have 5-hearts and 1½ - quick tricks with two 5-card suits and a nice rebid.

Bid 1♥

Over the bid of one heart with 10HCP and 4-spades, some West players may now make a take-out X and others may pass. I will consider both cases.

Case 1 - West Passes (I did)

You are North with 10HCP, but partner has now bid so how many “fit” points do you have? You have 4-card support for hearts (a 9-card fit) and a doubleton.

You must add +2pts for the 9-card fit and +2 points for the doubleton so you have 10+4=14 **FIT POINT. WOW!**

Now what?

Well, it depends What is your agreement when partner opens in the 4th seat?

Some play that one would open 2♥ with an opening hand while others may play Drury, Two-Way Drury, Two-Way Reverse Drury or 3-Way Double Reverse Drury.

And some may have no agreement and may not even count “fit” points. If this is YOU, you may just invite by bidding 2♥ and partner would PASS. Yes, you missed the boat and would get a poor result.

If you play 2-Way Reverse Drury, you would bid 2♦* to show 4-card support with 10-12 points and partner with bid 3♣ to show an opening hand. Now what? Bid 4♥ - I hope using fit points. If you invite by bidding 3♥ and ignore fit points, partner may pass! YOU HAVE 14 FIT POINTS --- BID GAME!

For those pairs that do not use Drury, one may use the Nebulous 2♣* Convention or perhaps some version of Bergen raises in the fourth seat with 10-11 points.

Case 2 - West Doubles to show 4-spades (I did not).

The ♠K is safe if West has the Ace. But if not, you should deduct one (-1) point for the ♠K so you now have 13 **FIT points** and may proceed as above.

But WAIT, the double may wake Up East who has 5-spades and would most certainly bid 2♠ or 3♠.

Now What?

Most N-S pairs would now compete to 4♥; however, now East may now bid 5♠ with the singleton heart.

The top score for E-W was 3♠ (12.0) or the Pass Out (11.0) and the top board for N-S was 4♥ making Five (11.5).

Only 6 of the 15 N-S pairs or 40% of the field bid the heart game and no E-W pair bid 5♠.