

When Opponents Compete By Steve Moese

Getting to the right contract when opponents take air out of our auction requires tools and judgment.

Board 12 ♠ A Q
West Deals ♥ 10 9 6 4
N-S Vul ♦ K Q 8
♣ K 10 4 3

♠ 8 6 5 4 3	N	♠ K J 10 9 2
♥ 8 7	W	♥ K Q 5 3
♦ J 5 4	E	♦ 9 3 2
♣ A J 2	S	♣ 8

♠ 7
N 4N; 4♥;
NS 3♥; 5♠; 4+;
S 2N; EW 2♠
♥ A J 2
♦ A 10 7 6
♣ Q 9 7 6 5

W	N	E	S
P	1♣	1♠	2♠
4♠!	Dbl	P	5♣

Tues Eve Sep 23.
The Bidding - West Passes. North opens 1♣ with a balanced 14 HCP, East will choose between double and 1♠ - here 1♠ is better because the hand is light for a double (11 HCP min.) and ♠s are 5-cards long. South invites in ♣s by bidding 2♠. (With 4♥s, South makes a negative double). West has the length (5-card support) but not the shape (no singleton or void) to jump to 4♠ as a preempt/sacrifice. Since EW are NOT vul (NS are), 4♠ is a great bid! North has a difficult decision. NS have a very useful tool in their competitive bidding tool kit – the **FORCING PASS**. When our side has invited or forced to game, anytime the opponents are sacrificing or any time the opponents have a fit and bid to the 5-level, the **FORCING PASS** is **ON**. A forcing pass says “Partner, either you bid or double. You may not pass out this hand.” The Forcing Pass implies NO WASTED VALUES in the opponent’s suit – here ♠ - or significant extra values that I haven’t been able to show in the auction so far. Here North **DOUBLES in a forcing pass situation**, telling partner that they have significant “wasted values” in ♠s. Some play that this double is a command to pass. One should never stop thinking. South knows that **they must defeat 4♠ by 4 tricks (+800)** If we make a ♣ game (+600). Setting EW just 3 tricks won’t be enough (+500)! South is confident that Partner has 4 ♣ cards (83% likely) and a reasonable opening hand. (They preempted).

The Play – Assume East leads the ♥K. Now North must infer that East has length in both majors and the ♣ J is with West. Duck the ♥K. Win the ♥ continuation cheaply (♥J). Lead ♣5 to the ♣10. When this succeeds lead a ♣ to the ♣Q. West can’t get to East for a ♥ ruff! Ducking the 1st trick saved the day.

9/23 – Future Master Leaders

1st OA: Janet & Al Venosa (69.2%)

2nd OA: Karen Kalla & Richard Horvitz (59.6%)



Bring your Questions, Hands, Ideas. Let’s learn together!

Tues Eve 6:30 PM Sharp!

CBA Newcomer Games – Play Often!

Mon PM < 2000

Fri AM NLM + Lecture

Tue PM 149er LTB

Sat AM Supervised Play

Sat PM NLM (Homestyle Available)

Events at the Cincinnati Bridge Center

- **Fri Sep 26** 11 PM Open & NLM Club Champ. Extra MPs. \$1 Extra. Lecture 10:30 Linda Wolber. Linda Wolber Appreciation & Nancy Sachs Memorial. Call Kay 513-631-8070.
- **Sat Sep 27** – Supervised Bridge 10 AM – 12 Noon @ CBC. Contact Mike Purcell for reservation mikpur@cinci.rr.com. 1 PM Open & NLM. Call Kay for partners 513-631-8070.
- **Sun Sep 28** – **Unit Game 3x Red Points** - \$10 Entry. Prizes for NAP Qualifiers. Practice for the NAP Finals!
- Thu Eve and Last Tue in Sep are **SWISS TEAM** games. In Oct Thu Eve is <2500 MP Pairs Game (1st, 2nd, 4th) & Swiss (3rd).
- **September CBA Flyer** – CBC, NKy, and Anderson offer games with EXTRA MASTERPOINTS!

Area Tournaments

Ft Wayne IN Regional	Sep 15-21
Glasgow KY Sectional	Sep 19-21
Owensboro KY Sectional	Sep 26-28
Terre Haute Sectional	Oct 3-5
D11 NAP Finals (Sat Flight B, Sun Flight A&C)	Oct 11-12
ACBL Tournaments http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php	

Post Mortem – South correctly assumed that NS had a 9 card ♣ fit. EW bid a 10 card ♠ fit. The Law of Total Tricks (Larry Cohen) says the number of tricks is equal to the total number of trumps from both sides. This hand is a 19 trick hand (9♣+10♠). When they make 10 ♠ tricks, we make 9 ♣ tricks. If we make 11 ♣ tricks, they make 8 ♠ tricks (+300). Good time to bid.

Note that any NS game scores top Match Points.

Bd 12	Scores		MPs	
	NS	EW	NS	EW
3 NT N	630		6	0
5 ♣ N	600		5	1
4 ♣ x E	300		3	3
4 ♠ x E	300		3	3
4 ♠ x E	300		3	3
4 ♠ E	100		1	5
5 ♣ N		100	0	6
3 ♠ E	150		4.5	0.5
4 ♣ N	150		4.5	0.5
4 ♣ N	130		2.5	2.5
4 ♣ N	130		2.5	2.5
4 ♠ E	100		0.5	4.5
4 ♠ E	100		0.5	4.5

This Saturday Pat Hoffman, Nancy Luetge and Judy Ruehl will be running the 10am game. This week we look at a hand where we need to avoid the danger hand to make game.

Board 16 ♠ Q 7 6
 West Deals ♥ A 10 5
 E-W Vul ♦ A J 10 4
 ♣ A K 10

♠ J 9 8 ♠ A 10 4 3 2
 ♥ J 9 4 ♥ K 7
 ♦ K 8 6 3 ♦ 9 7
 ♣ 7 3 2 ♣ J 8 6 4

♠ K 5
 NS 5N; 5♥; ♥ Q 8 6 3 2
 4♦; 4♣; 2♠ ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ Q 9 5

Board 16 (Tuesday 9/23)

Bidding – North with a balanced 18 HCP is too strong to open 1NT (15-17 HCP) and must start with their best minor (1♦) and look to jump to 2NT later. Assuming East passes, South will respond 1♥ (6+ HCP, 4+ hearts). North can now rebid 2NT (18-19 balanced). South with 9 HCP knows they have game values and should either bid 3NT or look for a 5-3 heart fit by bidding 3♣ (New Minor Forcing). Given this is matchpoint scoring and South is relatively balanced, most will choose 3NT.

If East overcalls 1♠ - South now doubles showing either 6+ HCP and 4 hearts or just 6-9 HCP with 5+ hearts. North should still rebid 2NT unless West bids 2♠. If this happens North worried about their spade stopper should rebid 3♣ asking partner to bid 3NT if they have spades stopped which

they do. One way or the other North-South should reach 3NT.

Play of the Hand – Assuming North is declaring 3NT, on a ♠3 lead (fourth best) declarer has 6 winners (1♠, 1♥, 1♦, 3♣) and a lot of work to do. North must win the ♠K and plan their plan to keep West off the lead for fear of a spade lead through North’s queen. Start by leading the ♦Q from dummy to finesse. Even if the finesse loses, East will be on lead and cannot play on spades without setting up your ♠Q. This time the finesse works but since diamonds break 4-2 you need to develop one more trick. Our best hope is to play the ♥A and a low heart. As long as East has the ♥K you will set up your queen. Luck is with you as the ♥Q and the entire heart suit sets up in this case. You now have 11 tricks (1♠, 4♥, 3♦, 3♣) for +460.

Post Mortem – Planning your play to “avoid the danger hand” from gaining the lead, West in this example, can be critical to making your contract.

Bd 16	Scores		Mps	
	NS	EW	NS	EW
3 NT N	490		5.5	0.5
3 NT N	490		5.5	0.5
3 NT N	460		3.5	2.5
3 NT N	460		3.5	2.5
4 ♥ S	450		1.5	4.5
4 ♥ N	450		1.5	4.5
3 NT N	400		0	6
3 NT N	460		5	0
3 NT N	400		4	1
2 NT N	120		3	2
3 NT N		50	2	3
3 NT N		100	1	4
3 NT N		150	0	5