

Balancing Seat Jump Shift by Steve Moese Sat Nov 22

Board 18 ♠ AK10643

East Deals ♥ J94

N-S Vul ♦ 6

♣ AK5

♠ J8

♥ Q85

♦ K8

♣ 1097642



♠ —

♥ AK7

♦ AQJ742

♣ QJ83

♠ Q9752

EW 5♣; 4♦; ♥ 10632

E 1♥; NS 3♠ ♦ 10953

♣ —

What do you do with a hand holding a good 6+ card suit and 14-16 HCP when the auction starts 1(any) – P – P? Balancing seat bidding is different. Here is a hand from Saturday afternoon. Reaching NS par is difficult. East deals and opens 1♦, passed to North. Before reading on, decide how you will

bid North's hand.

If South held North's hand, South would overcall 1♠ and double ♦ later. Overcalling then doubling shows a hand at the top of the overcall range or stronger, with a good suit and support for at least one and likely two other suits.

But North is in balancing position. What now? South couldn't overcall 1♦ (weak). West couldn't raise nor bid, suggesting 5 or fewer HCP. North has 15 HCP. If East has 12 and west 4, then South has 9 HCP or so. If South is weaker, East is stronger. In balancing position 1♠ shows as little as 8 HCP to about 14 HCP. Doubling usually shows 8+ HCP and 3 places to play. Doubling then bidding shows about 17+ (usually with at least 2 places to play). The balancing bidder has the jump shift at their disposal. It makes no sense for the Jump shift to be weak – with a weak hand, pass and let the opponents play in their suit at the one level. We use this jump shift to fill the gap in balancing seat to show intermediate hands (14-16 HCP) with a good 6+ card suit.

How should South respond to the auction at their 2nd turn to bid? South's hand is worth 7 Support Points in ♠, and South knows they have an 11 - card trump fit. 4♠ is a stand out bid. 3♠ in this auction is forward going and suggests some values. When the auction reaches 5♣ 1♦ P P 2♠ doubled, South has one more 3♣ 3♠ 5♣ Dbl decision to make. South knows that P ??

s/he can contribute no defensive tricks. North has made a penalty double in a forcing pass situation. A forcing pass occurs when we've shown a fit and 1) GF values, or 2) invitational values and they bid to the 5-level, or 3) when the opponents are clearly sacrificing. Here, East must be sacrificing at 5♣ with a very weak hand. Pass by North over 5♣ would show no wasted values in ♣ and forces a double or 5♠ bid by South depending on their hand. North's double shows ♣ values. South might bid 5♠ over the double given



Bring your Questions, Hands, Ideas. Let's learn together!
Tues Eve 6:30 PM Sharp!

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the ♣ void and the 11-card trump fit. This risks down 2 for a poor score (-500), but South suspects opponents have no ♠ losers and might make 5♣X (-550). At matchpoints every point counts.

The result depends on East's opening lead. If a ♣, South will win ♣AK and pitch 2 ♥ cards, losing 2♥ & 1♦ making 10 tricks. If a ♦ or ♥, East might switch to ♥, so NS lose 1♦ and 3♥ tricks.

Once EW bid 5♣ (good job giving NS the last guess), NS will score -200, -500 or -550. Tough game this.

11/22/14	Scores	MPs
Bd 18	NS	EW
4 ♠ N	620	12 0
6 ♦ x E	500	11 1
5 ♣ x W	100	10 2
4 ♦ E	50	9 3
4 ♠ N	100	8 4
3 ♣ E	150	6.5 5.5
3 ♦ E	150	6.5 5.5
5 ♠ x N	200	5 7
5 ♣ x E	550	2 10
5 ♣ x E	550	2 10
5 ♣ x W	550	2 10
5 ♣ x E	550	2 10
5 ♣ x E	550	2 10

Newcomer News – by Mike “Keeping Fun On My Convention Card” Purcell 513 702 4007

Volunteers for this Saturday's 10 AM Supervised Play game are Bob Fisk, Judy Ruehl, Pam Campbell. See you Saturday Nov 29, 2014.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.