

This hand is a shining example of when to **not** accede to your partner's Shut-Out bid. Mainly because you've been forced to fib to him!!

Bidding:

I'm ambivalent about East's 1S opener. While I would always recommend the 20-pt 2NT bid, the combination of the strong Spade suit and the weakness of the Diamonds makes 1S a good option. West has no really good response, and (as I would) temporizes with 2H – promising nothing, perhaps a good suit – possibly 5-card. East now shows 19 points with a jump to 3NT. At this point, a Slam investigation can hardly cost, because 4C still allows some get-out space. 4D (0 or 3) – 4H (Kings?) – 5C (2). With the 6-card Heart suit and the two doubletons, 6 Hearts is not that bad a Contract.

Bidding History

North	East	South	West
Pass	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Play History

Trk	South	West	North	East
1:	(D5)	D3	DT	*DJ*
2:	S3	S6	S2	*SA*
3:	ST	S8	S4	*SK*
4:	C3	C2	C4	*CA*
5:	C9	C8	C6	*CK*
6:	D2	*DA*	D4	(D6)
7:	H4	(H2)	HT	*HA*
8:	H6	*HQ*	C7	(H5)
9:	HJ	*HK*	D7	H8
10:	D9	*H9*	CT	C5
11:	DQ	*H7*	D8	S5
12:	DK	*H3*	S9	S7
13:	*CQ*	(CJ)	SQ	SJ

Hand Finished
East/West made 3 overtricks.

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Replay, Rebid, More >>, Computer Replay, Computer Replay (Express)

Play:

North has a dreadful choice of lead. The most interesting one is a Spade (“Thru Strength..”), probably the 2. This brings the Rule of 11 into play. South has only one card to beat the 2, the Q, 10 or 9. Good technique says to play the J, because of the potential of the 5, 6, 7 and 8 for finesses against the 10 & 9 in North’s hand. On any other lead, draw trumps, and the best percentage chance is again to pursue the Spades. Bicycle-clip time if the lead is a Diamond, because you’re down immediately if it loses. Happily, it makes, and ruffing the 4th facilitates 2 discards – a loser each in Clubs & Diamonds. Note that running the Hearts doesn’t really work, because North just holds his Spades, and South only has to hold 3C and 2 Diamonds. Mind you, if South discards his 2 Spades early, that’s a very strong pointer to the placement of the Spade Q – and the play first to the Ace exposes the 4-2 split immediately.