

The main (Only?) point of interest with the bidding of this hand is South's bidding. Under the pure point-count rules, his bid over East's 1H should be 2D. That, however, completely ignores his singleton. The point here is that the value of a singleton only applies when you're heading for a suit contract [obviously, not *that* Suit!), and it is obvious here that South has no interest in anything other than Diamonds. So, he Doubles, showing 13+ points – his 12 HCP, and 2 for the singleton (when **not** an honour).

North's 2NT indicates a balanced 10-12, therefore he has something in Diamonds. It's now over to South. I would be an aggressive bidder, so I "pushed the boat out", and bid 5. Simply because any invitational bid should be passed – North has had his say!

As the cards sit – and the odds are with a favourable lie – nothing can prevent 5D making, whereas 3NT is beaten by the Hearts, which will almost certainly be led.

Correct play, by the way, is to take the Diamond finesse (See Play History panel). This will guarantee the contract when the Spade King is offside (not here, of course – it's just good technique).

**Bidding History**

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1H	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	5D
Pass	Pass	Pass	

**Play History**

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

Note: in the Play History panel that the (brackets) indicate the card lead, and the asterisk\* indicates the winning card.

Enjoy mulling it over, and I'd welcome any comments, queries, suggestions etc.

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