

June 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 43, "It's Your Call", Deal 5 – Declare or defend?

IMPs. Both vulnerable.

♠ K Q ♥ 5 4 ♦ A 10 5 3 2 ♣ K Q 10 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	3♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

(1) Preemptive raise

Call	Votes	Award
Pass	5	100
4♥	4	90
4♣	4	80
4♠	1	80
3♠	3	70
5♣	0	30

This deal elicited a variety of expert observations. Among them:

1. Larry Cohen leaves in the double in and passes. He observes that they are unlikely to make 3H. He expects partner to lead a heart, thereby reducing the number of trump tricks declarer will make. NS has the majority of the HCP and good values in all the suits except hearts. So, the defense should aim to minimize their heart tricks.
2. Colchamiro also passes and notes:
 - a. Partner has shown five spades; it is unlikely that he also has five clubs (or he might have made a Michaels cue bid). Therefore, the South club holding should be useful on defense.
 - b. Although 4S may make (and 1 panelist bid that) the 3H preemptive bid is often a warning that the other suits won't split well.
3. There is a debate on whether 4H cue bid is the correct call. In this situation, 4H asks partner to choose what game to bid. It shows a tolerance for spades and good minor suits. Some experts do not like the bid because North is a passed hand; 4H is an aggressive bid. Most would bid 4H if North were not a passed hand. Meckstroth, Lee and Weinstein bid 4H.
4. Robinson bids 4S, showing exactly two spades (with three spades, South would have supported immediately after 3H) and extra values.
5. Some take out the double with 4C and consider what might happen after that. Rigal and Fang will bid 4S if partner bids 4D, giving partner a choice of games.
6. Three panelists bid 3S, leaving both 3NT and 4S in the picture.

Page 51, "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms – *New suit not forcing?*

The reader asked whether or not a new suit by advancer (the partner of an overcaller) is forcing.

Responding to an overcall is quite different from responding to an opening bid. Opening bids do not convey information about the quality of the suit bid; overcalls do (or should). Overcalls are typically lead-directing.

An overcall shows an interest in playing in the bid suit and does not promise any values outside it.

An opening bid starts a dialog with partner who has enough to answer (5 or 6 points).

Support with support. Holding three cards in partner's suit and a weak or intermediate hand, you should usually make a simple raise of partner's overcall. Holding more than three cards in partner's suit, consider jumping to the appropriate level based on your distribution and the vulnerability.

Bidding a new suit in response to an overcall shows a good suit and a desire to play in it. It typically denies support for partner's suit and is not forcing.

The only forcing bid available to an advancer is a cue bid of the opponents' suit. This shows:

1. A limit raise or better of partner's suit OR
2. An opening hand (only if the advancer has not previously passed).

Dlr: South ♠ 97
 Vul: N-S ♥ QJ2
 ♦ AK1053
 ♣ A93

♠ Q10854	N W † E S	♠ KJ	♥ 109853
♥ 76		♥ 109853	♦ Q872
♦ J6		♦ Q872	♣ 75
♣ KQ62		♣ 75	

♠ A632
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ 94
 ♣ J1084

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

The appropriate opening lead is the fourth-best ♠5, looking to establish the spade suit by knocking out the NS spade stoppers.

East should play the ♠K; South should duck. East should continue with the ♠J.

The rule of seven (Subtract the number of cards in the combined hands from seven. The result is the number of rounds you should *usually* duck) indicates that South should win the second spade (7-6=1; duck once). However, this is not the time to blindly follow the rule. Declarer knows from the overcall that West started with five spades and would like the lead to remain with East, who has only two spades. So, declarer ducks a second time.

West must now overtake the ♠J with the ♠Q. This

allows West to continue spades until North wins the ace.

If declarer tries to establish club tricks to make his contract, West will get in with a club and cash two more spades for down one.

Declarer can hope to make his contract by playing diamonds. Declarer could play the ♦9 and, if West does not cover, let it ride to the ♦Q. East can return a club, but it doesn't help, as the ♣A will be won in dummy. Declarer now scores one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and one club. Contract making.

As the title of the article suggests, the nine is an important card. West has only two diamonds. We typically cover an honor with an honor to try and promote a card for our side. West, seeing the ♦T in dummy, should treat the ♦9 like an honor and cover it with the ♦J. If he does this, declarer cannot run the diamond suit and the contract fails.