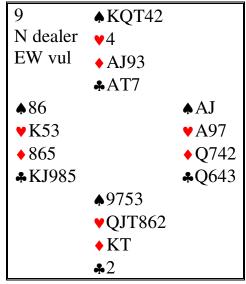
HAND OF THE DAY - FRI. EVE.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TAIGABRIDGE



Pass

	♣ 2		all N are t
West	North	East	South
	1 🌲	Double	3 ♥ (*)
4 .	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

*fit-showing

Count tricks, not points.

After North opens 1 \$\infty\$, South has a challenging hand to describe in most bidding systems, whether West chooses to make an offshape takeout double or to pass. You have only 6 HCP, but a hand with exceptional trick-taking potential and a great fit with partner. If you settle for a simple 6-9 point raise, you are going to miss a lot of games when your partner can't scrape up a game-invitational rebid. (1 \$\infty\$-Double-2 \$\infty\$-3 \$\infty\$, Pass-Pass-3 \$\infty\$, for instance, will probably end the auction. After 1 \$\infty\$-Pass-2 \$\infty\$, some but not all Norths are aggressive enough to try for game.) But what are the alternatives to a simple raise in spades? In most

systems, 1♠-Double-2♥ is nonforcing and 1♠-Double-3♠ is preemptive.

One method, popular among experts especially in Europe, but rarely discussed in the Bulletin or intermediate-level bridge books, is to play jump

shifts in competition as showing a good suit *and* support for partner. If this agreement is part of your system, you can jump to $3 \checkmark$ to show a good heart suit, spade support, and enough values for at least the 3-level.

Lacking such a toy, I think South's best plan is to show a limit raise in spades despite his low high-card count (1 \(-\)Pass-3 \(\) or 1 \(-\)Double-2NT, in most people's systems.) If you forced me to choose between responding 2 \(\) and forcing to game (leaping to 4 \(\) or making a 4 \(\) splinter bid) I would prefer to force to game than risk stopping too low on these cards. At the table Friday, only 4 pairs out of 12 reached this easily makeable 20-point game. (East-West are already on shaky ground at 4 \(\), but it's a reasonable bid. The vulnerability should scare them out of sacrificing over 4 \(\), however.)

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