

HAND OF THE DAY – FRI. EVE.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TAIGABRIDGE

9 N dealer EW vul ♠86 ♥K53 ♦865 ♣KJ985 ♠9753 ♥QJT862 ♦KT ♣2	♠KQT42 ♥4 ♦AJ93 ♣AT7 ♠AJ ♥A97 ♦Q742 ♣Q643
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Count tricks, not points.

After North opens 1♠, 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♠-Double-2♠-3♣, Pass-Pass-3♠, for instance, will probably end the auction. After 1♠-Pass-2♠, 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

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Double	3♥ (*)
4♣	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			*fit-showing

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♥ 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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