

HAND OF THE DAY – THURS. AFT.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TAIGABRIDGE

22	♠94		
E dealer	♥K9762		
NS vul	♦KJ		
	♣AKJT		
♠AJ82		♠53	
♥AT		♥QJ843	
♦9763		♦A8	
♣Q54		♣8763	
	♠KQT76		
	♥5		
	♦QT542		
	♣92		

Four rounds of bidding all at the one-level?

All four players at the table had interesting bidding decisions to make on this board. The diagrammed auction is the one I think is most reasonable, but not the only possibility (and not anyone else's choice, apparently: according to the recap sheet, *nobody* made a partscore in spades by N-S.)

Old-fashioned Wests won't open; most modern players will open almost any 11 HCP in 3rd seat not vulnerable. 1♦ is the "standard" choice, but some people will try 1♠ on a good 4-card suit in third seat.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North with the best hand at the table will surely bid – probably 1♥ but a few brave souls might overcall 1NT to show 15-17 and their stopper.

East has a tough choice if West reopens with a double: try for a penalty against 1♥, bid clubs, or try notrump? The matchpoint scoring would make me try for 200, expecting to win 4 tricks myself (3 hearts and a diamond) and hoping my partner has three winners.

South won't like his hand much after West opens, but he might try 1♠ over 1♥ right away, and surely will run to spades if East leaves the double in. In spades, South will lose one heart, one diamond, and most likely three spades. (With perfect guessing, North can take 7 tricks in hearts or 8 tricks in notrump – but 1♥ doubled is a nailbiter, and it's not reasonable for South to pass if North bids notrump.)

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