

# DON'T FORGET THE 4-CARD SUIT

## Board 20021-401

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 10 8 7  
♥ 3  
♦ A 6 5 4 3 2  
♣ Q 6

♠ K 9 6 5 4  
♥ K 9 2  
♦ K Q 10  
♣ J 5



♠ A 3 2  
♥ 8 6 4  
♦ 9 8  
♣ A K 7 3 2

♠ J  
♥ A Q J 10 7 5  
♦ J 7  
♣ 10 9 8 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

## Bidding Commentary:

Your partner opens 1♠ and you don't have enough to respond 2♥, either in 2/1 or in standard systems. The appropriate bid is 1NT. You might consider a weak jump shift to 3♥ if your partnership plays that way. Partner must re-bid in his 3-card diamond suit and you can now show hearts. After he supports your hearts, your hand improves significantly. It is all shape. Originally, it contained 9 HCP, but the jack doubleton is worth a 1-point subtraction. Now, the hand is worth closer to 13 or 14 points. The 6-card heart suit is worth about 11 points. The singleton and doubleton adds another point, and the 4-card club suit (such as it is) is worth another point. This hand is worth an easy raise to 4♥.

## Play Commentary:

West leads the ♦A and another diamond. This looks suspicious. Leading an unsupported ace in a 4-level contract is unusual. It may be from a doubleton or from a weak but long diamond suit – aimed at finding East with a short diamond suit and a ruff.

You have a spade loser, a diamond loser and 2 club losers. You need to ditch the spade on the good diamonds in the dummy. But you are worried about East trumping the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond. You must pull trump – even if they break 4-0. If the trumps are divided 2-2 you will have one in the dummy to ruff the 3<sup>rd</sup> club. A 3-1 break is most probable. You end in the dummy and play the two good diamonds, discarding the ♠J.

Now you can turn your attention to that moth eaten 4-card club suit. You lead the ♣J, tempting East to cover. He does and plays the other club honor, crashing with his partner's ♣Q. Now you have 2 clubs to go along with the 6 hearts and 2 diamonds – 10 in all.