

Try To Enter The Bidding

Board 43135-3659		♠ 6 5 4	
South Deals		♥ A J 2	
None Vul		♦ A K 10 6	
		♣ 6 5 3	
♠ Q 3			♠ A 10 8
♥ K Q 8 7 6			♥ 10 9 5
♦ J 9 7 3 2			♦ 8 4
♣ A			♣ K 10 8 4 2
		♠ K J 9 7 2	
		♥ 4 3	
		♦ Q 5	
		♣ Q J 9 7	
West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	All pass	

Bidding Commentary:

West opens 1 ♥ which is raised to 2 ♥ by East. This auction is probably going to die in a comfortable 8-trick contract. That is, it will if I don't do something. It's now or never. As a passed hand, I can make a weak overcall of 2 ♠ without partner getting too excited. I have a fairly good 5-card spade suit and shortness in their suit. I should be able to get some help across the table since East's hand is limited to 10 points.

Partner, indeed, is supportive. Over West's rebid of 3 ♥, North raises to 3 ♠ and the bidding ends.

Play Commentary

East leads the ♥ K. I win the ♥ A. In a part score suit contract, it is often helpful to count winners. I have 1 heart, 3 diamonds, and maybe 1 club. I must try for 4 spade tricks. I'll need a 3-2 split. There is no reason not to start on trump. The only ruffing I'll have to do is in my hand should the opponents lead hearts. I lead a low spade to my ♠ K and it holds. I next lead the ♦ Q and another diamond to the ♦ A. They bold hold. I next lead the ♦ K from the dummy and East ruffs with the ♠ 10. I over ruff with the ♠ J. I lead the ♠ 2 and both remaining spades fall on the trick.

They take their good heart trick and switch to diamonds which I trump in my hand. Playing the clubs from my hand isn't ideal, but I can't get back to the dummy to lead them. I lead the ♣ 7 and West pops up with the ♣ A. How fortunate. Now, after I regain the lead, I force out the ♣ K and the ♣ J is my 9th trick.

I feel pretty good about making our contract until I study the hand and see that had North doubled 3 ♥, we would have set them 3 tricks for +500!