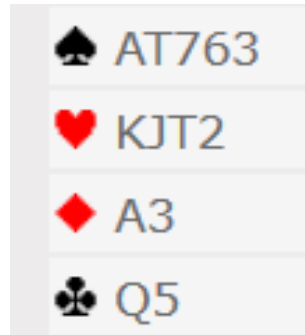


CUTE BIDDING?



You are South with all vulnerable and West Dealer. The bidding proceeds:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1H	2D	??

What do you bid?

Thoughts:

You have 14HCPs (high card points) and as many as 16TCPs (total card points) so clearly you should be at least in game. But your hand is rather holey (note the “e”) and, according to the losing trick count, you have seven losers and your partner may also have seven losers if she has a minimum opening hand. This equates to taking 10 tricks only but, nonetheless, your hand seems too strong just to bid 4H which partner will likely pass. A waiting bid is required. If you bid 2S, partner will bid 3H or 3C. Will that help you decide whether to look for slam? Not a great deal, I think.

There is a bidding gadget called a “cue raise” which advises partner that you have a trump fit and **at least** 10HCPs and it is used where there has been an intermediate overcall or where partner has overcalled. This would be an example of the former and what you are now doing is asking partner to clarify the strength of her holding which will give you a better idea as to whether a slam is possible.

In this example you bid 3D and now you will hear partner bid 4H, rather than 3H, which tells you she has more than a minimum opening. You may then feel confident to look for her controls with a view to bidding a slam.

If you are using cue raises, direct raises in the trump suit, in this case 2H, 3H or 4H now become more pre-emptive, for example, hands in the 6-9 point range with 3,4 or 5 card trump support, respectively.

This the full Board played on Friday December 20.

4		♠ J5 ♥ AQ9854 ♦ 4 ♣ AK87	Dir: W Vul: Both																														
♠ 82 ♥ 73 ♦ 7652 ♣ JT632	♠ AT763 ♥ KJT2 ♦ A3 ♣ Q5	♠ KQ94 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJT98 ♣ 94																															
14 1 11 14			<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♣</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♠	♦	♥	♣	NT	N	2	-	6	5	5	S	2	-	6	5	5	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-
	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT																												
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E	-	2	-	-	-																												
W	-	2	-	-	-																												

The bidding could have proceeded:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1H	2D	3D ¹
Pass	4H	Pass	4NT
Pass	5H/S ²	Pass	6H

¹ (cue raise)

² 5H (2x Aces*) or 5S (2 x Aces + QH**)

*Blackwood **Roman Key Card

In the event, five N/S partnerships bid 4H and two reached 5H. All seven made 12 tricks for a dead flat board.