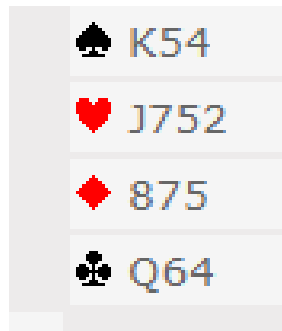


## Risk versus Reward



With West the dealer and both vulnerable, you are sitting North with this hand and the bidding proceeds:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1C
Double	Pass	1S	3C
3S	??		

What do you bid?

### Thoughts:

Your partner is showing a strong hand with long clubs. You have no ruffing value but your club holding probably ensures that partner's suit will run without loss. You also have a possible spade trick. If the opponents are allowed to play in 3S you are unlikely to make even two club tricks in defence. Based on partner's strong bidding, a raise to 4C seems reasonable.

However, if you went through this thought process, there is another bid you might choose to make. You have concluded that you will have a long club suit to run plus, as declarer, you have a spade stop. Not forgetting West's original take-out double, you also have the possibility of a heart stop. A bid of 3NT would be a more risky option than a bid of 4C but has some prospects of coming off. A spade lead by East would be expected. You could test the waters. If opponents double you could always retreat to 4C.

This Board was played in the second round of the Championship Teams. Only one North of eighteen bid 3NT and North-South was rewarded with a major IMP swing when a spade was

led and 3NT was made. As you can see, East-West can actually make 4S. A heart lead followed by the QS switch holds North/South to six tricks but is that a likely scenario?

BOARD 20					
BD: 20	♠ K54 ♥ J752 ♦ 875 ♣ Q64				Dir: W
					Vul: ALL
♠ QJT86					♠ A973
♥ K643					♥ AT8
♦ KJ2					♦ QT63
♣ 5					♣ T9
♠ 2 ♥ Q9 ♦ A94 ♣ AKJ8732					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	-	-
S	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	3	4	-
W	-	4	3	4	-

		6	
10			10
		14	