



Ask Jerry

Jerry Helms

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Dear Jerry,

Would you mind sharing your expertise on the following bidding sequence?

Dir: North ♠ K J
 Vul: None ♥ A K 7 4
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ J 8 3

♠ A 10 9 8 5 4 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ 5	N W E S	♠ Q 7 6 ♥ J 10 8 6 ♦ 8 4 3 ♣ A K Q
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♠ 3 2
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ K J 2
 ♣ 10 9 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
3♠	1♦	Dbl	2♦
	All Pass		

West finished down three. Any comments would be helpful.

Freda

Hi Freda,

I would assign blame to everyone except possibly West on the auction you described. I would judge the East hand to have made a slight error by doubling with a 3=4=3=3 12-count. I am not sure I understand why South would raise with 4 high-card points and only three diamonds. I certainly think West chose a reasonable action by bidding 3♠, but how could North possibly pass holding 18 HCP opposite a partner who made a voluntary value-showing raise?

A possible auction:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl?	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♣
?			

If West now bid 3♠, I would double with the North hand. Otherwise,

North-South would play 3♣, making three. This is contingent on East doubling, which was my style in my early youth. In my current youth, I tend to avoid totally balanced, minimum point-count takeout doubles. □

Language barrier?

A duplicate player told a non-bridge playing friend she was going to play on a Swiss team. "Oh how nice," said the friend, "but will you be able to understand each other?"