

## Tidbit 18

### Support with Support

#### Interpretation:

If you know you have a fit with partner's opening major suit bid, or overcall for that matter, there is seldom value in investigating the wisdom of playing in another suit. This gives away unnecessary information to the defence. If you have support for partner's minor suit opening bid it can be worthwhile to investigate whether you have a major fit as well because a major contract will score better. Even if you have a good fit but are modest in HCPs you can judge how far to raise your partner's suit using the "Law" of Total Tricks discussed in Tidbit 13.

#### Examples:

BOARD 4									
<b>BD: 4</b>		♠ Q965				<b>Dir: W</b>			
		♥ A83				<b>Vul: ALL</b>			
		♦ K62							
		♣ T65							
♠ A7				♠ 8432					
♥ Q97642				♥ KT5					
♦ T3				♦ J8					
♣ 843				♣ AJ92					
		♠ KJT							
		♥ J							
		♦ AQ9754							
		♣ KQ7							
		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT							
N	1	5	-	5	1			9	
S	1	5	-	5	1	6		9	
E	-	-	1	-	-			16	
W	-	-	1	-	-				

West	North	East	South
2H	Pass	3H	4D
Pass	??		

East-West play a 2NT response as an enquiry as to how strong West's weak 2 opening is as far as both suit and HCPs and the 3H bid is not invitational. It is based on the Law of Total Tricks and is simply intended to make it difficult for South to bid. Undeterred, South bids 4D and West passes. What do you as North bid? You can expect South to have six or more diamonds and a singleton heart at most. She should also have good values in spades and clubs having entered the auction vulnerable and at the 4 level. A raise to 5D on your part is reasonable.

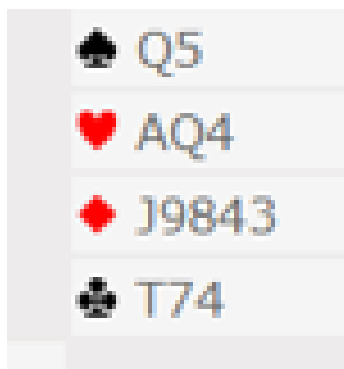
BOARD 23									
<b>BD: 23</b>		♠ Q862				<b>Dir: S</b>			
		♥				<b>Vul: ALL</b>			
		♦ T83							
		♣ KT9743							
♠ T94				♠ 753					
♥ AKT873				♥ Q9642					
♦ K72				♦ A64					
♣ 6				♣ Q8					
		♠ AKJ							
		♥ J5							
		♦ QJ95							
		♣ AJ52							
		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT							
N	5	3	-	5	-			5	
S	5	3	-	5	-	10		8	
E	-	-	2	-	-			17	
W	-	-	2	-	-				

South	West	North	East
1NT	2H	3C*	3H
??			

\*To play.

You are South. What do you bid? Your partner probably has a 6+ card suit and modest values. She probably has 1 x heart at most. The Law of total tricks would suggest that 4C is a safe spot to be but what about 5C? It seems like the opponents' bidding is based largely on heart length and something in diamonds. You are on a maximum. The Souths who bid 5C are going to get a top Board.

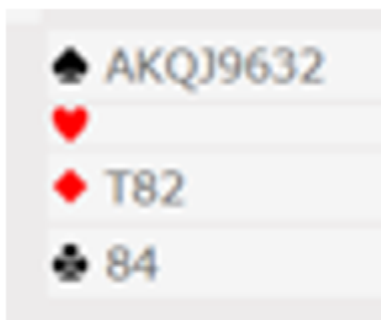
Exercise:



East	South	West	North
1S	2D	4S	??

You are North and both sides are vulnerable? Do you pass, bid 5D or double 4S?

Answer to Tidbit 17 Exercise:



You are South and second to bid. East-West are vulnerable and you are not. East opens 1H. What do you bid second to speak as South?

BOARD 22					
BD: 22	♠ T				Dir: E
	♥ 96542				Vul: EW
	♦ A43				
	♣ KJ96				
♠ 754				♠ 8	
♥ AT				♥ KQJ873	
♦ J65				♦ KQ97	
♣ QT732				♣ A5	
	♠ AKQJ9632				
	♥				
	♦ T82				
	♣ 84				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	4	-
S	-	-	-	4	-
E	-	2	4	-	-
W	-	2	4	-	-
					8
				7	15
					10

Here is the whole hand. Over 1H opening from East, you should bid 4S without hesitation.

You have 8 solid tricks and even if your partner has nothing you can only go 2 down doubled at most for a score of -300. If East gets to play in 4H, even though your partner has 5 x hearts and an Ace, East will make 10 tricks and your side will record -620.

As it happens your partner has some useful values and 4S makes your way for a score of 420.