

WING AND A PRAYER

♠ KQ8432
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 9542
 ♣ 3

You are South with East Dealer and no-one vulnerable.

The bidding proceeded:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	2C*
Pass	2D**	Pass	3D
Pass	3S	Pass	3NT
Pass	??		

*23+HCPs or less than four losers; **0-6 HCPs

What do you bid?

Thoughts:

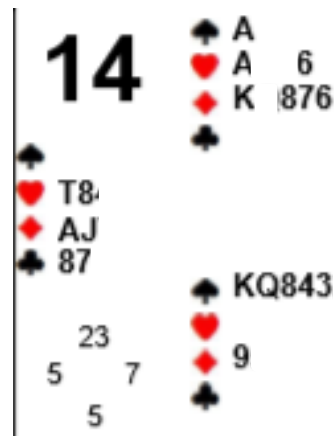
You have shown less than 7HCPs but then bid spades at the three level. This suggests that you have a five-card or six-card suit worthy of mention. Partner should therefore conclude, based on your prior 2D bid, that you hold nothing much outside spades and yet partner has bid 3NT. This suggests partner has very little in spades but maybe holds a semi-balanced hand or a long solid diamond suit with stoppers in clubs and hearts. In either case, it appears that your spade suit is unlikely to be of much use to declarer in a NT contract other than to offer a trick or a stopper.

Depending on partner's spade holding 4S might make. 5D should definitely make but may score poorly at Matchpoint if either 3NT or 4S makes. Your 4 card diamond support, spade suit and distribution makes 12 tricks in diamonds a possibility but maybe a long shot. Notwithstanding, declarer chose to bid 6D.

<h1 style="margin: 0;">14</h1>	<p>♠ A ♥ AK76 ♦ KQ876 ♣ AK9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: None</i></p> <p>♠ JT765 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 3 ♣ QJT5</p>																														
<p>♠ 9 ♥ T843 ♦ AJT ♣ 87642</p>	<p>♠ KQ8432 ♥ 52 ♦ 9542 ♣ 3</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	-	6	2	4	2	S	-	6	2	4	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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<p>23 5 7 5</p>																																

The hand was played on Tuesday Oct 1. West led her singleton spade. South was a bid disappointed in North's diamond holding but everything else looked good. South won the AS, played AC and

ruffed the 9C to hand and then led a diamond, West playing the 10D and the QD winning. South now played the KC pitching a heart and then the KH and a heart ruff back to hand.



This was the end position. Declarer now led her KS with the intention of discarding the potential heart loser in dummy before leading her last diamond towards the KD in case West held both the AD and JD. West was trapped. If she ruffed with the AD, South would discard her heart loser before West led another round of diamonds. If she ruffed with the JD, South would over-ruff and then ruff her heart loser in the dummy with her remaining trump before playing her QS. In this latter case, West could take her one trick, the AD, when she felt like it. If she discarded, South would discard her losing heart in the dummy before leading her trump towards the KD. Thus 6D makes, but on a bit of a “wing and a prayer”. 3NT goes down one and 4S makes despite the bad break with the help of partner’s singleton AS.