

46.2024 – Should I Compete?

Dealer N EW Vul

Here is a tough call for West:

WEST

K9852
10
AKJ8753
-

Bidding so far

North	East	South	West
1H	P	2NT (1)	??? (2)

(1) Bergen strong Heart raise

(2) What should West bid?

Comment: West has a 4 – loser Hand, but the Spades are weakish, and EW are Vul

The options seem to be: Double, Pass, 4D or 3S

Which do you favour?

Answer: Bid 3S, knowing if you are Doubled, you can bid 4D. NS have not bid Hearts, so you can expect partner to have a few. 4S is 1 Trick less than 5D

Full Hand:

NORTH

AQ
AQ643
2
J10532

WEST

K9852
10
AKJ8753
-

EAST

J764
K987
106
876

SOUTH

103
J52
Q94
AKQ94

Further Bidding:

North	East	South	West
1H	P	2NT (1)	3S (2)
4H (3)	P (4)	P	P (5)

(3) Sign-off

(4) East could bid 4S. Partner must be strong for the 3S bid, and given both NS have bid Hearts, West is unlikely to have any or only 1, giving cross-ruff potential. East holds off bidding, thinking 4H may not make

(5) If East Passes, it is too hard for West to bid 4S alone

The Play

Assuming 4S is bid

Dummy goes down

You see at once that 4S makes

What about 4H?

It will make on a Spade, Heart or Diamond lead

On a Club lead (hard to find), ruffed by West, followed by DA, DK, then NS will lose 2 Hearts, 1 off

MORAL OF THE STORY

Competitive Bidding is hard, but it is for the brave. EW should compete to 4S given West's strong hand and East assisting with 4 Spades and 4 Hearts

Ian Morison

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