

# Ask Dwight For July 15, Newsletter

## Thursday afternoon, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Board 2

**Hello Dwight,**

I was sitting North on Thursday afternoon, June 28. On board 2 my partner opened 1NT and everyone passed. We ended up with a bad score and we should really be playing in Spades but I had only 4 points and did not want to get to 3 diamonds. How should the auction go?

Thanks for your advice.

**North** (V)

♠ 10 8 7 3  
♥ J 10 3  
♦ K 6 5 4 3  
♣ 8

**West** (NV)      **East** (D NV)

♠ A J 4      ♠ 9 6  
♥ A 9 6 4      ♥ 8 7 2  
♦ J 10 7      ♦ Q 9  
♣ K 5 4      ♣ A 10 9 7 6 2

**South** (V)

♠ K Q 5 2  
♥ K Q 5  
♦ A 8 2  
♣ Q J 3

HCPs

4  
13 6  
17

Thursday aft, June 28th, Board 2

### Dwight's Response

**Hello Justam,**

Hands of this nature always tend to be awkward to handle. My advice is to always bid Stayman with this hand and pass whatever response you get from Opener. If Opener's rebid is 2D, the worst scenario is that you will play in a 5/2 Diamond fit. If the response is 2H, you will play at a low level – 2Hearts, and if, as was the case on this particular hand, the response is 2S, you get to play in your 4/4 fit. With a weak hand any of these 3 contracts will almost always score better than leaving Opener in 1NT as you found out.

In fact, any time you have a weak hand with as few as 4 points and your distribution is 4/4/4/1 with a singleton club, I recommend you use Stayman and pass whatever response you get. Most of the time your side will be able to obtain a better result by playing in any of 2D, 2D or 2S than you would by playing in 1NT.

If you have further questions, please let me know.

db