

Ask Dwight for December 16, 2018 Newsletter

Hi Dwight,

My partner and I played **Wednesday, December 5th** in the **afternoon** and we got a bottom board on [Hand #13](#) as we were the only pair who missed bidding game. We were sitting east/west and I was wondering if you could help us with the bidding on that hand.

North was the dealer and passed. I (east) had 14 points with 5 spades and opened 1 spade. South overcalled 2 hearts. My partner (west) said 3 hearts (cue bid showing a good hand with spades, North passed and I bid 3 spades which was the final contract.

I was wondering if you could tell us if it was up to me or partner to bid 4 spades? We were vulnerable and when I looked at my hand with 4 hearts, king high and no aces, I worried about perhaps having too many losers to bid game. My partner fortunately had a singleton heart with 11 points but we are missing 3 aces. 4 spades and 5 spades made.

Thanking you in advance,

Sorta-shy

North (D V):
♠ 8 7 2
♥ 9 5 2
♦ 10 5 2
♣ J 9 5 4

West (V):
♠ 6 4 3
♥ J
♦ A J 8 7 6 3
♣ K Q 10

East (V):
♠ K Q J 10 9
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ K Q
♣ 3 2

South (V):
♠ A 5
♥ A Q 10 8 7
♦ 9 4
♣ A 8 7 6

HCPs:
1
11 14
14

[Wednesday afternoon, December 5, 2018 – Board 13](#)

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Response

□

Hi Sorta-shy,

Your auction was fine until your partner, West, passed your 3 Spade call. You have every right to devalue your hand to some extent since 3 of your points seem relatively useless (Heart King). After your 3 Spade bid your partner should bid game in spades. The 3H Q-bid could well have been made on a lesser hand and with the singleton heart and a great source of tricks in diamonds West must bid the game, not you.

From your partner's point of view - holding 11 HCP and *knowing* you as opener have 13 points...what can they be? KQJ of spades for 6? perhaps 3 in hearts? That means you (east) must have at least 4 points in diamonds and clubs combined. That means that your side can not have more than 3 losers... 1 spade at most presumably, 1 heart at most and 1 club or 1 diamond at most. East MUST have at least the K of diamonds (or the A of Clubs) if not the KQ of diamonds and likely the Jack of clubs...

West should visualize your hand that even with a minimum hand there cannot be 4 losers for the reasons I have stated above.

So, a sensible auction should be:

1S-(2H) -3H-P

3S-P-4S-P

P-P.

Hope this helps in general situations as well. Counting is so very important as is visualization of partner's hand.

Regards,

db