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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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Q. 1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠9 7 5 ♥A K Q 8 3 ♦J 9 ♣J 10 6

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1NT Pass ?

What do you bid?

A — That depends on your methods. This hand rates to play better in no trump than in hearts because any tenaces held by partner in the minor suits will be protected from the opening lead. So if you play transfer bids, transfer into hearts and then jump to three no trump. If not, respond three no trump.

Q. 2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A 10 6 ♥K J 6 5 4 3 2 ♦9 6 ♣9

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ 2♦ 2♥ Pass

4♥ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A — Your double fit puts your hand in the slam zone. However, the major risk is that you have two fast diamond losers. For the moment, you can do no more than tell partner of your interest by bidding four spades. Any further move must come from him.

Q. 3 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J 9 2 ♥8 4 ♦A 8 7 3 ♣10 9 4 3

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♣ 1♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A — You have very little, and you have no reason to think that your side can make eight tricks. However, you should make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to buy the auction, and the obvious way is to raise to two spades. The reward rates to be bigger than the risk.

Q. 4 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K Q J 9 8 3 2 ♥8 ♦J 10 8 3 ♣7

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♥ Pass 1NT ?

What action do you take?

A — Bid three spades.

Q. 5 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠9 ♥A J 5 ♦A K Q 9 8 5 3 ♣K 4

Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

A — How did this one slip in? It is too simple. You have an enormous hand in trick-taking potential. Bid three no trump. A lead in hearts or clubs will almost guarantee you nine tricks even if partner has nothing of help

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