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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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Q. 1 — A South, vulnerable, you hold:

K J 8 3 A J 5 2 Q 9 3 7 4

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A — You are on the border between a forcing and a limit raise in spades. At this vulnerability, we prefer an aggressive approach and would opt for whatever forcing bid we have available, be it three spades or two no trump.

Q. 2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

8 7 2 Q 9 7 6 3 Q 8 6 10 3

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A — It is tempting to bid two hearts, natural (or transfer into hearts if that is your method). However, how comfortable would you be if partner, with a maximum 17 points and a heart fit, were to invite with three hearts. With your balanced four points, don't look for trouble — pass.

Q. 3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

K Q 6 8 4 A Q J 7 A K 9 8

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1 Pass 1 Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A — Reverse your major-suit holdings and you would have no problem — you would jump to two no trump to show a balanced hand. Here you cannot afford that — partner might raise to three no trump when four spades or even a slam could be the right contract. Tell a slight lie by making a reverse bid of two diamonds.

Q. 4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

A K 10 6 2 K 9 3 A J 9 6 10

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1 Pass 1NT Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A — You have a reasonable hand to be sure, but only if partner has a fit for you. For the moment you can do no more than bid two diamonds.

Q. 5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

10 6 A 9 6 5 A J 10 6 5 A 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1 Pass 1 Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A — Your three aces and fit for partner's suit make your holding look pretty good, but it is still a seven-loser hand. For partner to be able to cover four of them, he must have enough to bid a second time. A raise to two hearts now is adequate.

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