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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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Q. 1 – As South, vulnerable you hold:

♠A K J 5 4 ♥9 4 ♦K 10 6 ♣Q 7 4

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass

?

What action do you take?

A – That depends on your methods. If one no trump is natural, you have a minimum and must pass. If, however, you play it forcing you must rebid two clubs. With two minors of equal length, rebid the cheaper regardless of strength.

Q. 2 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A 9 4 ♥7 ♦A K J 4 3 ♣7 6 4 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass

?

What do you rebid?

A – Change a low club for the ace of spades and it would be correct to show your second suit. But to treat your shabby clubs here as a suit is the highest form of flattery. Our choice is a raise to two spades. Your goodish fragment is surely of more interest to partner than those clubs.

Q. 3 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A 6 5 ♥A 10 7 6 3 ♦A 9 5 ♣A 10

What is your opening bid?

A – To treat this as a 16-point hand and open one no trump shows a lack of appreciation for the strength of your hand. The point count grossly undervalues aces while making up for that by over evaluating queens and jacks! We would treat this hand as 18+ and open one heart, intending to rebid strongly.

Q. 4 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠9 5 ♥A K Q 8 3 ♦Void ♣K 9 8 6 5 2

What is your opening bid?

A – Switch your minor suits around and opening one heart would have more appeal. You could comfortably rebid two diamonds should partner respond two clubs. Here, however, a response of two diamonds would force you to distort your shape. Open one club.

Q. 5 – As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K 9 7 6 2 ♥8 5 ♦9 7 6 ♣Q 8 2

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A – You do not have much, but experience shows that is wrong to suppress even a weak five-card major. Respond one spade.

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