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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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Q. 1 — As South vulnerable, you hold:

K J 8 7 9 5 10 4 3 A Q 6 3

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 Pass 1 Pass

2 Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A — You are on the verge of having enough to bid game, but there is a problem that partner might have only three-card spade support. The best you can do is make a game try by bidding three clubs.

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

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

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 Pass 1 Pass

1 Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A — You have a fair hand and four-card support for partner's major suit. You have enough to invite game, not enough to get there under your own steam. Make an invitational jump to three spades.

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

A K Q J 7 6 A 8 A K Q 10 9

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

2 * Pass 2NT Pass

3 Pass 3 Pass

?

*artificial game force

What do you bid now?

A — Where's the problem? If partner has an ace and a king, you want to be in a grand slam! The easiest and quickest way to find out is to trot out the Old Black — bid four no trump.

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

9 4 K J 6 3 A 10 5 J 8 7 2

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1NT 2 ?

What do you bid now?

A — Even if you play negative doubles, don't double now — on this sequence that would be for penalties, not takeout. You have enough to invite game, so bid two no trump despite the fact that you do not have a spade stopper. It is dollars to doughnuts that partner has one.

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

A 6 5 J 10 7 6 2 9 8 4 A K

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A — Even allowing for some of the terrible 12-point opening bids we see these days even in expert circles, we can't think of anything other than four hearts. Your three prime cards increase the value of your hand by a point or two

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