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Bridge Tips **Tannah Hirsch**

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Q. 1 – East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠8 3 ♥A K 10 9 6 ♦8 ♣A J 9 5 4

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

3♦ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A – The spade shortage is awkward. If you make a takeout double, or even some two-suited takeout, a spade response from partner might make the auction impossible to handle. Start with three hearts.

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

♠A K 10 6 ♥A Q J 4 2 ♦Void ♣A J 7 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A – Our first move would be to jump to three clubs, then follow up with a leap in spades. That should imply the void in diamonds and leave partner well positioned to decide where to go.

Q. 3 – As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A J 7 6 3 ♥J ♦K J 6 ♣J 9 5 4

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass

4♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A – North's jump to game is not a "drop-dead" action. Rather, it shows a hand good enough to offer play for game opposite a minimum 6-point response. That puts you in the slam zone; cue-bid five diamonds.

Q. 4 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A 9 6 4 3 ♥A K Q J 4 ♦9 8 3 ♣Void

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♦ 2♣ ?

What do you bid?

A – We would start with a simple two-spade overcall and then jump in hearts at your next turn. Do not let the quality of your suits tempt you to bid hearts before spades.

Q. 5 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A Q 10 8 ♥K 6 5 2 ♦K 9 ♣K J 7

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

A – At one table in a team match, South raised to four hearts and the contract was defeated one trick after a club lead – the defense took the queen and ace of clubs, a club ruff and the ace of diamonds. At the other table South bid three no trump, since any opening lead except a heart would give him at least nine tricks. That rolled home in comfort.

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