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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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

K J 10 6 9 4 3 6 4 3 10 9 6

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1 Dbl Rdbl ?

What action do you take?

A – It is important to inform your partner where your strength lies. Bid one spade. Partner can tell from the auction that you don't have much, so suggesting a lead to partner might save him from a more damaging opening salvo.

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

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

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1 Dbl 4 ?

What action do you take?

A – You could double – here it would show highcard values, not a trump stack. Or you could bid four no trump – for takeout, of course, intending to correct five clubs to five diamonds to show length in the red suits. A third option is simply to bid five hearts, since partner's double promises a heart suit.

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

8 3 K J K Q J 6 5 4 A 7 2

The bidding has provided:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 Pass 2 \* Pass

2 Pass ?

\*game forcing

What do you bid now?

A – Forget about three diamonds – in most partnerships that cancels the game force and downgrades the response to invitational. And since partner does not guarantee a six-card suit on this sequence, and you don't want to bypass three no trump by jumping in diamonds, two no trump is the only option that remains.

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

9 5 Q 8 7 5 2 A 9 6 A 5 4

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 2 ?

What action do you take?

A – You cannot bid three hearts – that would be forcing. And you are too strong to pass. You have to bid three diamonds and hope you land on your feet.

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

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

North's opening bid of one spade is doubled at your right. What action do you take?

A – If any bid other than a raise to two spades crossed your mind, you need to brush up on your bidding principles. Despite nine highcard points, the flat distribution is a flaw, so a redouble is out of the question.

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