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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Q. 1** • As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠J 7 5 ♥9 ♦Q J 9 3 2 ♣J 10 6 3. The bidding:-

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♥ Dbl ? >>>> What action do you take?

A. Pass.

**Q. 2** • Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K 7 3 ♥A 6 ♦10 9 6 5 2 ♣Q 8 7. The bidding :-

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass

1♠ Pass ? >>>> What do you bid now?

A. With a balanced 9-count, one no trump is automatic.

**Q. 3** • As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠9 ♥K ♦K Q 8 7 6 2 ♣K J 7 6 3. The bidding:-

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass

2♥ Pass ? >>>> What do you bid now?

A. This holding has all the earmarks of a horrible misfit, so you should bail out as soon as possible. A preference to two spades might do the trick, but partner's hand should be of more use to you than yours to him. Therefore, bid three diamonds.

**Q. 4** • Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A J 6 ♥A Q 10 5 4 ♦K 7 6 ♣A 10. The bidding:-

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass 3NT Pass

? - - - - - >>>> What action do you take?

A. Partner's leap to three no trump shows a very specific hand — a 4-3-3-3 pattern with 15-17 points. That gives you enough to bid a small slam but a whisker short of anything else. It is simply a matter of whether you should bid six hearts on the known eight-card fit or six no trump. We prefer the latter, since you might have 12 tricks at no trump when an evil heart distribution sinks the suit slam.

**Q. 5** • Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠9 3 ♥A Q 8 7 3 ♦A Q 10 ♣A Q 9. The bidding:-

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass

? - - - - - >>>>What do you bid now?

A. Another awkward hand. Three clubs is a distinct underbid and four clubs bypasses three no trump and suggests four-card support. The solution is a temporizing bid of two diamonds to see how partner reacts.

[gorenbridge@aol.com](mailto:gorenbridge@aol.com)