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HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS

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High Level Bidding Decisions

When your partnership bids to game and the opponents bid at the 5 level, it is rarely right to bid 5 over 5. As a general rule, you are likely to get a plus score by defending and bidding may turn this positive into a minus score.

N	E	S	W
1S	3C	3S	5C
?			

North (1)

♠AK765

♥KQ10

♦A642

♣3

You should double. Your hand has three or four likely tricks and partner has shown some values with their three spade call. If West had passed, you would happily have bid to game, but avoid bidding at the five level without extreme shape.

North (2)

♠AKJ76

♥Q2

♦K1042

♣32

Hand 2 - Clearly we should pass with our minimum opener and hope to beat it 1.

North (3)

♠AQJ1076

♥A54

♦KQ52

♣ -

Hand 3 - This looks like a hand to break the rule of not bidding 5 over 5. We have a strong 6 card suit, plus a void in the opponents' suit. We can invite slam by bidding 5 Hearts – this is a cue bid showing our Heart control and asking our partner to choose between bidding 5 and 6 Spades.

The prospect of bidding at the five level once both sides have competed to the four level is quite a different bidding philosophy.

N E S W

1H 2H 4H 4S

?

North

♠84

♥A109832

♦AKQ8

♣7

The opener has powerful playing strength and a vital sixth trump making 5H automatic. One other consideration is that East appears to have the black suits – so both sides have a big double fit.

The full hand:

North

♠84

♥A109832

♦AKQ8

♣7

West

♠AK1052

♥J64

♦95

♣Q106

East

♠QJ763

♥ -

♦J2

♣AJ9432

South

♠9

♥KQ75

♦107643

♣K85

Bidding 5H wins the board for North/South.