

on.”  
 with 4♥. “The  
 auction is  
 hearts,”  
 e an  
 preempt. If  
 t, we will  
 , we will  
 or down

making.”  
 bid 4♥ just in case,” says  
 Rigal. “This hand will play very well  
 if 3♥ shows heart cards and spade  
 tolerance, or if he just has hearts.”

“Partner figures to have seven bad  
 hearts,” say the Colchamiro. “He is  
 short in spades, and thus has some  
 diamonds — so diamond ruffs should  
 get us to 10 tricks.”

“4♥,” says Walker. “I’ve spent too  
 much time trying to figure out what  
 partner could possibly have for this  
 BOON (Bid Out Of Nowhere). The  
 watchword in these situations is: “If it  
 could be natural, it is.”

Two panelists double.

“I double and lead hearts,” says  
 Soloway. “If they run to 4♣, then I’ll  
 bid 4♥.”

“I double,” says Meyers. “I think  
 partner is inviting me to bid 4♠ and  
 showing heart values, something  
 like: ♠K 3 and ♥A Q 8 7 — with  
 that, I don’t rate to make 4♠.”

Three panelists pass. Robinson is  
 one and offers a very plausible expla-  
 nation for the 3♥ bid.

“Pass,” he says. “Partner couldn’t  
 bid 1♥ over 1♣, so we don’t belong  
 in 4♥. I think partner must have  
 thought my 2♠ was a Michaels  
 cuebid.”

Bridge Buff agrees with pass. (“3♥  
 doesn’t compute — it’s making my  
 circuits overload. My human partner  
 probably misunderstood my 2♠ bid  
 and took it for Michaels. If I bid 4♥,  
 that contract could be a 4-3 or even  
 a 3-3 fit. I’m passing and playing it  
 safe.”)

Cohen bids 4♣. None of the other  
 panelists thought of this bid, but it  
 covers several bases.

“It’s a bit strange that partner  
 couldn’t overcall 1♥,” he says, “but  
 can bid 3♥ on this sequence. In any  
 event, I will show my good hand  
 (which has gotten quite good), and let

him choose a major.”

There is a maxim in bridge: Sup-  
 port with support. Even though most  
 panelists are confused by partner’s  
 bidding, they follow that advice, and  
 4♥ is the popular choice.

4. Matchpoints. East-West vulnerable.

♠103 ♥AQJ4 ♦KJ94 ♣QJ5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	?

## It's Your Call September problems

Problems from District 8 Advocate.

1. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠— ♥K8764 ♦Q98642 ♣K3

West	North	East	South
		3♠	Pass
4♠	4NT <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	?

(1) Two-suiter (any two suits).

2. IMPs. None vulnerable.

♠AQ763 ♥9 ♦52 ♣J7642

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

3. Matchpoints. None vulnerable.

♠AK952 ♥1054 ♦K ♣10743

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	?

4. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠A10764 ♥J742 ♦A7 ♣K4

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	?

5. Matchpoints. Both vulnerable.

♠AQ7 ♥654 ♦A109543 ♣10

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

Two-part question:

1. Do you agree with South’s pass?
2. What is your call?

Call	Votes	Award
Yes	16	50
No	2	10

Call	Votes	Award
Pass	14	50
Dbl	3	30
4♥	1	10

### Should you take the push?

The majority agrees with the pass  
 of 3♥. Once you choose that call,  
 you shouldn’t bid 4♥ over 3♠ —  
 doing so is letting the opponents push  
 you to a contract that rates to fail. A  
 minus score on this deal is surely a  
 terrible matchpoint result.

“Pass,” says Robinson. “Partner is  
 competing, and I have what he might  
 expect me to have. No reason to  
 believe we can beat 3♠ or take more  
 than nine tricks in hearts.”

“Pass,” echoes Walker. “I didn’t  
 think my hand was worth 4♥ on the  
 last round, so I’m not going to let the  
 opponents bully me into it now — es-  
 pecially when I have decent defense  
 against 3♠.”

“Pass,” agrees Meckstroth. “Partne  
 doesn’t have to have much to bid  
 3♥.”

“Pass,” says Lawrence. “On hands  
 like this, bid once and then shut up.  
 Partner is allowed to bid 3♥ on  
 ♥K 9 8 7 6 and the ♦Q, and 4♥  
 would be minus 300.”

Cohen agrees with pass. “This is  
 an excellent, difficult and typical  
 matchpoint situation. It’s tempting  
 to make a matchpoint double to try  
 for plus 200 to protect our 140, but  
 partner may have been stretching,  
 and maybe we have already won the  
 board by pushing them to the three  
 level. I would like to use the law here  
 but I don’t know how many trumps  
 there are. We could have eight or nine  
 hearts, they could have eight or nine  
 spades, so I’m just guessing.”

(Editor’s note: The “law” refers to  
 the law of total tricks. See *It’s Your  
 Call* in the August Bridge Bulletin for  
 a brief explanation.)

“I pass. I have no reason to believe