



# It's Your Call

Director: *Dave Smith* ♦ Scores: *Karen Walker*

Problems 1–4 from *Polish Bridge magazine*;  
No. 5 from the *District 8 Advocate*.

1. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ J 6 4 ♥ A Q J 5 4 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ K 9

West	North	East	South
3♦	4♦	5♦	1♥
			?

Call	Votes	Award
Pass	12	100
Dbl	6	80
5♥	0	20

## All your cards are working

You assume that your side has the balance of power after partner's cue-bid at the four level. When that is the case, the normal bid is to double at the five level with two or more quick losers in the opponents' suit. The majority choose instead to pass. Why?

"Pass. This is forcing after partner's 4♦ bid," says Cohen. "I'd be more tempted to double with two low diamonds, figuring on a diamond loser or two. In this case, partner could easily be void in diamonds, and every single one of my cards is working. If he wants to bid on, he surely won't be disappointed with my hand."

"Despite my minimum, I don't want

to double without a trump trick and inhibit partner from continuing," says Boehm.

"We make an encouraging pass," say the Joyces. "We have no wasted diamond values and will abide by partner's decision."

"I view pass as automatic, despite my minimum high-card points," says Colchamiro. "Partner is likely to have a stiff or void in diamonds, and I'll trust his judgment. If I had only two diamonds — the death holding — I would double."

The Coopers agree. "We are in a force and have nothing wasted in diamonds," they say. "Although we are minimum, all our cards are working."

"I have no strong view of whether we should defend or declare," says Falk. "As I have nothing wasted in diamonds, I am not about to tell partner I have a strong preference for defending by doubling."

"When partner bid 4♦, one of his primary reasons was to create a force," say the Gordons. "To bid here is unilateral. We'll leave the decision to partner."

"I could bid 5♥ with nothing wast-

ed in diamonds," says Meckstroth, "but I will pass it around and let partner decide."

"I will pass and let partner bid when he has diamond shortage," says Rigal. "It'd be a harder problem with only two diamonds."

"This is a pretty good bad hand," says Sanborn. "Even though I'm quite minimum, I have nothing wasted. Because we are in a force, I can wait to see what partner does."

Six experts choose to double.

"I double to discourage partner from bidding 5♥ because my hand is dead minimum," says Stack. "Pass would be forcing and encourage partner to bid."

"Double is the only way to slow partner down in a forcing-pass situation," agrees Walker.

"It could be right to pass because what I have is pure, but I'm doubling," says Lawrence. "My double seldom includes a lot of diamond values, so partner can infer that I have a minimum."

"Because we're in a forcing-pass situation, my hand should show an unwillingness to go to the five level," says Kennedy. "Needless to say, partner may override this decision."

When the opponents interfere in a forcing situation, sometimes it's right to pass and leave the decision to partner.