

is good enough for action."

The Coopers agree with 4♥. "The only explanation for this auction is that partner has long, bad hearts," they say, "and did not make an undisciplined vulnerable preempt. If partner has a seven-card suit, we will probably make. If he has six, we will probably be able to get out for down two when 3NT is making."

"I'll 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 explanation 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: Support 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.

♠10 3	♥A Q J 4	♦K J 9 4	♣Q J 5
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.

♠—	♥K 8 7 6 4	♦Q 9 8 6 4 2	♣K 3
West	North	East	South
		3♠	Pass
4♠	4NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?

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

2. IMPs. None vulnerable.

♠A Q 7 6 3	♥9	♦5 2	♣J 7 6 4 2
West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

3. Matchpoints. None vulnerable.

♠AK 9 5 2	♥10 5 4	♦K	♣10 7 4 3
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	?

4. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠A 10 7 6 4	♥J 7 4 2	♦A 7	♣K 4
West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	?

5. Matchpoints. Both vulnerable.

♠AQ 7	♥6 5 4	♦A 10 9 5 4 3	♣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 — especially when I have decent defenses against 3♠."

"Pass," agrees Meckstroth. "Partner 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 but I don't know how many trump 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