

Stack: "I'm bidding what I think our side can make. Bidding 3♦ would lead to a confused auction."

Robinson: "I'm bidding what I think we can make. Diamonds weren't supported, and West ran from 1♦ doubled."

The panel discussion offers three main points:

1. At IMPs, you should push for a vulnerable game.
2. The experts can visualize the play during the auction (several of them mentioned endplaying the opening bidder), and they let that guide their bidding.
3. When the opponents have bid two suits, cuebid the one you have stopped.

3. Matchpoints. North-South vulnerable.

♠KJ2 ♥KQ5 ♦KQ109 ♣K108

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	2♦	1NT
			?

Call	Votes	Award
Dbl	15	100
Pass	1	50
2NT	0	20

"Let's try for 800."
- Dick Freeman

The humans on the panel were unanimous in choosing double.

Kennedy: "Looks like 800 for our side."

Walker: "I want to send a message that I have a lot of defense and no four-card major. Partner can see the vulnerability, too, and pull with a diamond void or nine cards in the majors. If he passes, I expect plus 800."

Sanborn: "I like to give the opponents some credit for sanity, but if I can't double with this hand, when can I?"

Rigal: "Double suggests trump tricks, but is not a demand for partner to pass with a bad hand."

Cohen: "Yes, I can see the colors, but who is to say we have a game? Partner can always pull if he feels it

is right."

Meyers: "Partner is not forced to pass, but I am going to tell partner about my diamonds."

Sutherlins: "We have three diamond tricks with no guarantee of game. Partner is aware of the vulnerability and can bid 3NT if he feels that he has enough to make it."

Falk: "We might bury them, and we might have a tough time scraping nine tricks together on offense. North can run for the hills with a 'garbage'

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From the District 8 Advocate

1. Matchpoints. Both vulnerable.

♠K2 ♥KJ85 ♦A10 ♣109652

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	2♣	?

2. Matchpoints. Both vulnerable.

♠3 ♥AK3 ♦A87642 ♣K64

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

3. Matchpoints. East-West vulnerable.

♠AJ754 ♥6 ♦AKJ63 ♣K5

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	3♣	?

4. Matchpoints. North-South vulnerable.

♠A76 ♥94 ♦AK8765 ♣82

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♦
			?

5. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠Q109843 ♥KQ973 ♦— ♣A10

West	North	East	South
4♦	1♣	Pass	1♠
	Dbl	Pass	?

Stayman hand."

Meckstroth: "Partner can pull if he knows we have a game."

Stack: "I have no aces, but it looks like a ton of defense. If partner has nothing, he need not sit for the double."

The only panelist to pass was the Bridge Baron. The Baron is quiet this month and no reason was given.

When the opponents step into your auction, sometimes you have to make them pay. As Freeman says, try for plus 800.

4. IMPs. East-West vulnerable.

♠K9753 ♥Q954 ♦7 ♣KJ2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

Call	Votes	Award
Pass	16	100
2NT	0	20
2♦	0	0
2♥	0	0
2♠	0	0
3♣	0	0

"A good hand for 2♥ over 1♦ to show 5-4 in the majors."
- Dick Freeman

Readers who choose anything other than pass can improve their bidding by reading what the panel says below.

Lawrence: "Pass. The easiest problem so far."

Sutherlins: "Clear-cut decision. We don't have game and anything else may be worse."

Meckstroth: "You don't have enough to bid again."

Falk: "I hope we can go plus in 2♣. Seems like an easy decision to me."

Colchamiro: "If we can make game, at least it's not vulnerable."

Cohen: "I'm predicting a unanimous panel. Not even close." Cohen has predicted this before. This time he's right.

Rigal: "Pass — you jest, surely?"

Sanborn: "I don't see much future with the hand. Stretching with not many high cards, bad suits and no fit is too optimistic."