

imp-odds. In addition, it is possible that we can push the opponents to five hearts. They have a lot of trumps and favorable vulnerability, so they may take a save, phantom or not, and that is a lot better for us than defending against four hearts doubled. The odds favor bidding. As Robinson says, it's a bidder's game.

Problem D

IMPs; none vul. You, South, hold:

♠ AKQJ9873 ♥ A874 ♦ 6 ♣ —

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	—	3 NT*	Pass

? [BWS: any club bid = pass or correct; 4 NT invitational; 4 ♦ asks singleton (replies: 4 NT = none; five of a minor = short in other minor)]

*BWS: solid seven-card minor; little side strength

What call do you make?

Action	Score	Votes
4 ♦	100	16
4 ♠	80	8
6 ♣	60	2
5 ♣	50	1
4 ♣	40	1
5 ♠	10	0
6 ♠	10	0

In this interesting and unusual problem, some panelists choose to play in partner's minor, blindly guessing a level.

LEW STANSBY: "Four clubs. This might be an undignified contract if partner passes, but there's no guarantee that we can make four spades opposite solid clubs. If partner corrects to four diamonds, I'll settle for six spades—a diamond lead would cause problems, but that's unlikely."

That could be right, of course, but it is a mighty big position. Not only might four (or more) spades be making, four clubs might not. Suppose partner has something like:

♠ x ♥ Q x ♦ x x x ♣ AKQJ x x x.

Against four clubs, should the opponents can cash three diamonds and shift to a heart, a two-two spade break will be needed. Four spades will make if the king of hearts is onside (or if North's singleton spade is the ten).

HOWARD WEINSTEIN: "Five clubs. If partner has diamonds, we can probably make seven spades without a diamond lead. If partner has clubs, we may have no game. Should I leap to a spade grand after a correction of clubs to diamonds, an alert West could figure out my hand-type and lead a diamond. Seven diamonds might make, but after a heart lead (or maybe a club lead) there could be problems if partner has a spade void. In any case: (a) If partner has clubs, I have no clue where to play; (b) if partner has diamonds, for foolish consistency's sake, I again have no idea. As Emerson continues, I have the 'hobgoblin of a little mind.'"

That, also, could be right, but it could be very wrong. Spades could be cold opposite a doubleton, with five clubs down off the top.

LARRY COHEN: "Six clubs. If I get lucky (probably at least a 45-percent chance), partner will correct and I will risk seven diamonds. If he passes, we might luck out after a favorable lead (or if pard miraculously has at most one diamond)."

KAREN MCCALLUM: "Six clubs. I intend to raise six diamonds to seven. In spades, a diamond lead may cut off dummy. It would be unlucky indeed to get a heart lead and to find partner void of spades."

I hate such blind leaps to slam. There is almost always something better. Surely partner's spade length will have a significant effect on the success or failure of various contracts. What is the rush? If you want to get to six (or

seven) of partner's minor, always do so later via a five bid, which would ask for h. Why not first find out something partner's hand?

Other panelists take a si proach, relying on their own.

ARTHUR ROBINSON: "Fourspa the need to assimilate the footno

DAVID ROWNTREE: "Fou Against perfect defense, this is likely to go down than to mak says defense is always perfect? slam, I can't find an investigator doesn't either lead to a partial in or gets past four spades when w

ROBERT WOLFF: "Four spad much to hope for solid diamo non-diamond lead. As for bid if partner passes I won't like o Where is Al Roth to complain v ally need him?"

ZIA: "Four spades. But I wou hat off to anyone who bid four c ably the last making spot."

CARL HUDECEK: "Four spac ner's suit is clubs, the opponen have enough cashable diamonds if his suit is diamonds, a club le him to have the spade ten or a singleton to make six. Though may be no cinch, if partner ha ten or a stiff heart, we should do

All true. If partner has a si void in spades, the odds are spades is where we belong not make, but five of a mir figure to do better. Howev partner has a doubleton sp with a stiff heart perhaps? N get interesting. The oppone longer cut away our hand i minor is trump. Give North:

♠ x x ♥ x ♦ AKQJ x x x