

this month. "Though North's 2♥ bid should be non-forcing," they say, "your ♥K 5 would upgrade this hand enough to search for a vulnerable game at IMPs. We don't like three low diamonds, but the rest of the hand is adequate for a raise."

The panel agreed that 2♥ was natural. They disagree somewhat as to how strong North should be. The double of 1♠ says that North wanted to double 1♥. Advancing players may wish to discuss auctions such as this with their regular partner.

2. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠3 ♥106543 ♦K876 ♣KJ5

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♠	Dbl
Pass	4♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Dbl	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

(1) Splinter raise of hearts (singleton or void in diamonds).

Call	Votes	Award
Pass	14	100
5♥	2	40
5♣	1	20
5♦	1	10

**"Pass and take my plus score. There's no guarantee of making 5♥."** — Paul Soloway

Over 4♠, you passed to get partner's opinion about what do. Partner elected to defend, so you should respect that and pass — at least that's the feeling of 14 of the experts.

"Pass," says Cohen. "When I passed 4♠, I was leaving it up to partner's good judgment. Why should I now change my mind?"

"Pass, what else?" asks Boehm.

"Pass, as partner expects and as my hand suggests," says Baze.

"Wasn't our pass over 4♠ telling partner that going on to 5♥ was okay with us?" ask the Colchamiro's. "Partner declined. What's the problem?"

"You made a forcing pass over 4♠," says Lawrence, "so you should accept the double."

"Pass," agrees Meyers. "Partner chose to double and there's no guarantee we can make 5♥."

"Pass," echoes Rigal. "My soft cards and weak trumps all argue for passing. The real problem is what to lead."

"My ♦K is defense," says Robinson, "and partner should have some spade length."

"Pass," says Walker. "East was kind enough to tell us we're getting dreadful breaks in our suits, which makes the five level a gamble. I'll respect partner's decision."

"We only have nine hearts," says Sanborn, "and I have the wasted ♦K. I already passed 4♠ saying I was willing to hear the five level. How can I possibly change my mind now?"

Some panelists are not willing to pass.

"5♣," says the Coopers. "Slam is still possible, and our club fit means that the five level is almost surely safe. Partner may have:

♠A 7 5 ♥A K Q 2 ♦4 ♣A Q 7 6 3."

Falk and Meckstroth bid 5♥.

"I've got too much in clubs, a stiff spade and a fifth heart," says Falk, "meaning that 4♠ is not going down very many or might even make."

"I don't think partner splintered with a lot (of values) wasted in spades," says Meckstroth. "My ques-

tion is why did I pass 4♠ to begin with?"

Meckstroth's question is a good one. Sanborn, the Colchamiro's and the Joyces all discuss the fact that if you pass and then pull partner's double, you should have a stronger hand than this.

Generally, if you pass the decision to partner, you should abide by his choice. As Soloway says, pass and take the plus score.

3. Matchpoints. None vulnerable.

♠AK10543 ♥— ♦AK65 ♣KQ6

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4♥	?

Call	Votes	Award
4♠	9	100
5♥	3	70
Dbl	4	50
4NT	1	40
5♠	1	30

**"Slight underbid."**

— Paul Soloway

Half the panel make the straightforward bid of 4♠, even though South has a monster hand.

"4♠," says Sanborn. "I know this is a huge underbid, but maybe I can

Panel's answers

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Grant Baze	Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♥	3♥	370
August Boehm	3♥	Pass	4♠	2♣	4♥	480
Larry Cohen	3♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	3♥	400
The Colchamiro's	Pass	Pass	4♠	2♣	3♥	500
The Coopers	3♥	5♣	Dbl	2♣	3♥	360
Allan Falk	2♠	5♥	5♠	2♣	3♥	350
Richard Freeman	Pass	Pass	5♥	2♣	3♥	470
Betty Ann Kennedy	Pass	Pass	5♥	2♣	3♥	470
Mike Lawrence	Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♣	4♥	440
Jeff Meckstroth	2♠	5♥	4♠	2♣	3♥	420
Jill Meyers	Pass	Pass	4NT	2♣	2NT	350
Barry Rigal	Pass	Pass	4♠	2♣	4♥	490
Steve Robinson	Pass	Pass	5♥	1♠	4♥	430
Kerri Sanborn	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	3♥	410
Paul Soloway	3♥	Pass	4♠	2♣	4♥	480
The Sutherlins	Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbl	4♥	450
Karen Walker	Pass	Pass	4♠	2♣	3♥	500
Bridge Buff	Pass	5♦	Dbl	2♣	3♥	360