

Answers to The Law Of Total Tricks Quiz on page 13

1 At love all what should East bid with Hands A, B and C after this auction?

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	2♣	3♣
Pass	Pass	?	

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ J 7 3	♠ J 9 7 3	♠ K J 7
♥ Q 10 7 6	♥ 10 9 4 2	♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ K 4 3 2	♦ K 4 3 2	♦ K 4 3 2
♣ 7 2	♣ 7	♣ Q 2

Playing Acol West will have either five spades or only four spades in a balanced hand too strong to open 1NT for his 1♠ opening. It is estimated that if your partnership opens all balanced hands in the 12-14 point range with 1NT then 75% of 1♠ openings have five spades.

Hand A Pass. You have no reason to think you have more than 8 total trumps.

Hand B 3♣. You have at least 8 total trumps, probably nine. You are minimum for your 2♣ bid but your shape is good. If you go off in 3♣ then it is very likely that North/South would have made 3♣.

Hand C Pass. You are maximum for 2♣ but in this sort of competitive auction the reason for bidding on is extra shape, not extra strength. You probably have at most 8 total trumps, possibly only 7. Your doubleton ♣Q may combine with something in partner's hand to make a defensive trick against 3♣. You might beat 3♣ but you are not sure enough to risk a double.

2 With only North/South vulnerable what should South bid with Hands A to F after this auction?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	?

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ K J 8	♠ K J 8 2	♠ J 8 5 4
♥ 7 5 2	♥ 7 5	♥ 8 5 4
♦ 7 6	♦ 7 6	♦ 5 3 2
♣ J 10 4 3 2	♣ J 10 4 3 2	♣ 5 3 2

Hand D	Hand E	Hand F
♠ J 5 3 2	♠ K J 6 3 2	♠ K 3 2
♥ Q 10 9	♥ 9	♥ A 5 4
♦ Q J 10 9	♦ 7 6	♦ 6 3
♣ Q 3	♣ J 10 4 3 2	♣ A J 8 7 6

North has at least five spades for his 1♠ overall.

Hand A 2♠. An 8-card fit. No game ambitions.

Hand B 3♠. A 9-card fit. Again no game ambitions.

Hand C Pass or perhaps 2♠. Bidding to the level of the fit might suggest 3♠ but at unfavourable vulnerability I don't feel inclined to risk -800.

Hand D 2♠. Again bidding to the level of the fit might suggest 3♠ but your ♦Q-J-10-9 opposite partner's likely shortage suggest there will be fewer total tricks than the LTT might suggest. 2♠ puts a bit of pressure on and may make it hard for them to find a heart fit.

Hand E 4♠. A 10-card fit. With

good shape the adverse vulnerability should not put you off. It is perfectly possible that you can make 4♠ and they can make 5♥ or 5♦.

Hand F 2♦. Spades will be trumps but this time you want to make a game try. 2♦ is an UCB.

3 At game all what should West bid with Hands A, B and C after this auction?

West	East
1NT	2♥ ¹
?	

¹ 2♥ is a transfer to spades.

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ A J 8	♠ A J 8 6	♠ A J 8 6
♥ K 6 3	♥ K 6 3	♥ K 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 6 5	♦ K 10 9 6	♦ A Q 10 9
♣ A 6	♣ J 8	♣ 9 8

Hand A 2♠. A good hand but with only 3-card spade support you should just bid as requested, there is no reason not to bid as requested by the transfer.

Hand B 3♠. 4-card spade support. Time to break the transfer. 3♠ shows a minimum 1NT opener.

Hand C 3♦. Shows 4-card spade support, a maximum 1NT opener and good diamonds. ■

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