

By David Huggett

4. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ 7 2		♠ Q 9 8 6 5
♥ K J 7 6 5 4 3		♥ 2
♦ 4		♦ K Q 6
♣ A K Q		♣ 9 8 6 5

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

2♥.

Your partner has replied at the one level, promising only six points, so you have no reason to harbour hopes for game unless he can bid again. Therefore, you should make your natural rebid of 2♥. If he does respond again, you will know that game might be on – here he would pass. The jump rebid of 3♥ is reserved for strong hands: encouraging partner to bid on. A 4♥ rebid would be for hands with a much more robust suit. 2♥ is certainly high enough with these two hands – if you manage to lose just two heart tricks you will make your part score.

5. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ 3		♠ A Q 6 5 4
♥ K Q 8 7 3		♥ 5
♦ A K Q 6 4		♦ 7 3 2
♣ Q 3		♣ 8 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

2♦.

You have 16 HCP so you might have been taught as a beginner to show your strength by rebidding 3♦: showing 16+ points and 5+-4+ in your two suits. However, beginners are taught a very simplified version of things. Once you are immersed in the game you will understand that a 3♦ rebid is forcing to game – your partner has to respond so that the partnership will finish in a game contract. This means that you need to be able to guarantee a game contract when your partner has only promised six points with his onelevel response. You need 19 total points to make a jump rebid. You have 16 HCP and two good fivecard suits, but without a fit you cannot evaluate for your shortage, in fact your singleton in partner's suit is not usually a good sign. Just rebid 2♦ and see what your partner has to say. Here, he would pass 2♦ and you would have stayed at a relatively safe level.

6. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ 7		♠ Q 6 5 4
♥ K 8 7 6		♥ A 2
♦ A Q J 5 2		♦ 9 8
♣ A 3 2		♣ J 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

2♦.

You have 14 HCP so your options are limited: you cannot afford to reverse (showing hearts with 2♥ would take you above your barrier and push the auction too high). Could you stretch to bid 1NT? Your good diamond suit is worth a point, but at the same time, your singleton in your partner's suit is not a good sign. You do best to slow things down and bid 2♦ which will end the auction. 1NT might work well if the diamonds behave, but an adverse division in diamonds will leave you well short, whilst 2♦ has reasonable chances.