## 13. Bidding a second suit when you shouldn't (1)

Bidding a second suit is often a good idea. However, there are times when it is inadvisable. If you have a balanced opening hand (too strong to open INT), it is better to rebid Notrumps to show your hand-type, rather than showing a second four-card suit.

AK3 ★KQ109 ◆AK107 ♣873 AK2 AK3 AQ63 AQ72 AK2

You correctly open l♥ with both the above hands (on the first, preferring the major to the minor; on the second, bidding l♥ with 4♥-4♠ to facilitate finding either 4-4 major-suit fit). Say partner responds 2♣. Do not bid your second suit (2♦ on the first, 2♠ on the second), for that would show an unbalanced opening hand and imply a fifth heart. Instead, rebid 2NT with both — to show your strong, balanced hand.

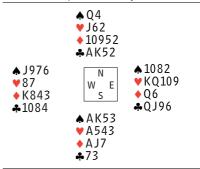
What Happened

Any one of West's 13 cards would have defeated the unpleasing 4♥ game. Not wanting to lead away from ♠K, West brightly chose a safe trump. Declarer played well but could not avoid losing three hearts and a diamond. One down.

What Should Have Happened

Declarer can make 3NT after the lead of any one of West's 13 cards. In practice, West is likely to lead •2 (the unbid suit), which makes life that bit easier. Declarer plays low from dummy, beats East's •Q with •A and promptly shoots back

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither



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S	W	N	Ε	
1♥	Pass	2 <b>.</b> (1)	Pass	
2 🏚 (2)	Pass	<b>4</b> ♥(3)	end	

What Hannoned

- (1) Correctly responding the cheaper of fours.
- (2) Mistake. This shows an unbalanced 4♠ 5♥ shape (probably with extra values but that's another story next Friday).

(3) Presumes there's a 5-3 heart fit.

Contract: 4♥, Opening Lead: ♥7

What Should Have Happened				
S	W	N	Ε	
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	
2NT(1)	Pass	<b>3♥(2)</b>	Pass	
<b>3</b> ♠( <b>3</b> )	Pass	3NT	end	

- (1) Showing her strong, balanced hand (15+points too strong to open 1NT).
- (2) There may be a 5-3 heart fit, so shows her delayed (ie three-card) heart support.
- (3) There may still be a 4-4 spade fit North could be  $4 \triangleq 3 \checkmark 1 \checkmark 5 \clubsuit$ .

Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ◆2

◆J. West wins ◆K and declarer is soon claiming nine tricks via ♠AKQ, ◆A, three diamond tricks (including dummy's promoted ◆109) and ♣AK.

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