

# 05. 2025 – Make a Strong Opening Bid

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Dealer E, NS Vul

East faces a choice of opening bids here:

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	J6	
	Q1043	
	KQ9	
	9652	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
AK		Q10987543
K965		AJ87
A8		10
A10874	-	
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	2	
	2	
	J765432	
	KQJ3	

## What should East open?

Options are:	Pass	(too strong)
	1S	(misleading as to shape)
	2C	(not strong enough – 5-loser Hand)
	2S	(too strong)
	3S	(too strong)
	4S	YES!

## Analysis

This is a clear 4S opening hand. East has 5 losers and hopes West can cover 2 of them so 4S makes. Or NS have a game on that they don't find

If East opens 4S, it is easy for West to bid 6S or 7S

## Can you make 7S?

South is most likely to Lead CK. Win it, throwing a Heart from Hand, ruff a Club with S7, small Spade to SK, then Play SA (drawing last Trump). Then ruff a Club, Diamond to DA, ruff a Club (noting 4-4 break, promoting Dummy's 13<sup>th</sup> Club), Heart to HA, play 13<sup>th</sup> Club tossing heart from Hand. 13 Tricks made

If the Clubs do not break 4-4 (or all of CK, CQ and CJ fall as you Ruff), you fall back on the Heart Finesse through North which makes

## MORAL OF THE STORY

Shapely Hands require big bids. Here East makes it easy for West with a 4S opening

At the Club, many Easts opened 2S or 3S, and the Contract was played in 4S.

**Ian Morison**

Friday 7 February 2025