

12. 2025 – How do I bid this shapely Hand?

Dealer N, Both Nil

You are North, and pick up this Hand, as Dealer:

NORTH
Q2
AQ87532
AK94
-

You count 4 losers, 15 HCP

The Hand is not quite strong enough for a 2C opening

You could open 4H; if EW have almost all of the missing Points, then it is hard for them to find their Game of (say) 4S

You think some more, mentally noting the missing Cards you need Partner to have, being some, or all, of:

SA SK SJ HK HJ DQ DJ

Mathematically, it is quite likely Partner will have around 2 of these, so you are looking to bid at least Game. Even if Partner has nothing, eventually bidding 4H is a good sacrifice against a possible 4S by EW

As no-one has bid yet, you decide to start with 1H, and the bidding then goes:

Suggested Bidding

North	East	South	West
1H	P	2NT (1)	P (*)
3C (2)	P	3NT (3)	P
4D (4)	P	4NT (5)	P
5S (6)	P	6H	

(1) Jacoby, good Hand, 4+ Hearts, 14+ Points, Game Force in Hearts

(2) Singleton or Void in Clubs

(3) Balanced Hand with cover in all suits (note: Hearts remains the agreed suit)

(4) Second Suit

(5) RKCB

(6) 2 Key Cards plus HQ

NOTE: (*) West could have bid 3C as a disruptive bid, and lead directing (I would have)

Here are the full Hands:

	RTH	
	Q2	
	AQ87532	
	AK94	
	-	
WEST		EAST
K86		109754
-		109
J632		1087
AQ7542		J93
	SOUTH	
	AJ3	
	KJ64	
	Q5	
	K1086	

CONTRACT AND LEAD

6H by North, lead H9

ANALYSIS

6H made easily, losing only SK

MORAL OF THE STORY

1. You can sometimes guide your bidding by visualising the cards you need Partner to have for Game or Slam, and applying basic probability analysis for the likelihood of that, then bidding accordingly
2. Jacoby is a great way of communicating, and worth adding to your bidding system (you can find it on-line through Dr Google)

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