

41.2024 – When to Jump to Game

1. Dealer N ??? Vul

How do You bid this Hand as West?

	NORTH		
	-		
	97		
	AKQ8		
	A1096432		
		EAST	
WEST		AKQ1092	
876543		108	
KJ65		J97	
62		KQ	
7			
	SOUTH		
	J		
	AQ432		
	10543		
	J85		
		SOUTH	WEST
NORTH	EAST	2H	??? (2)
1C (1)	1S		

(1) 4-Loser Hand (could North have opened 4C?)

(2) What should West bid? West has a weak Hand, made slightly stronger with the Singleton Club, and sitting over South with KJ65 of Hearts after South's 2H overcall. With the 6 Spades and 1 probable Heart winner, West adds 2 Tricks to East's 1S bid

The question is whether West should raise to 2S, 3S or 4S?

You will see at the top, I have not stated Vulnerability. In my view, therein lies the answer:

- if EW are Vul, and NS Not Vul, then I would just bid 2S (East with more than a simple overcall can always bid further). Bidding 4S straight away runs the risk that East is weak, and 4Sx goes down 2 or more = -500 or worse

- if EW are Not Vul, then bid 4S straight away irrespective of NS being Vul or not

Another option is to jump to 3S, showing long Spades and not much else. East does not have much outside Spades, and will probably not raise to Game if Vul

[Of course, whatever you bid, North is very likely to bid 5C, given South has shown some Points by bidding 2H over 1S. EW bidding to 5S is very risky. And keep in mind, 5C may not make]

MORAL OF THE STORY

There are many guides about bidding forcefully with lots of Trumps. But West does not know East's strength and if EW are Vul, then over-bidding may be costly if Doubled

In such case, just bid slowly rather than jump

Ian Morison

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