

10 - 2023 – Bidding using Loser Count

Here is an interesting Hand sent to me

Dealer South, Nil Vul

	1098654	
	543	
	J97	
	Q	
-		KQJ2
AQJ1097		K6
Q2		863
AK864		9732
	A73	
	82	
	AK1054	
	J105	

THE BIDDING

South opened 1 Diamond

West has a big hand, with just 4 losers. In my view, West has 2 options:

- Bid 1H; or
- Bid 4H

[I don't think a Double is correct, as invariably Partner has Spades and the bidding gets complicated as West has none]

Which of the 2 Options above should you adopt?

I strongly favour 4H – West has just 4 losers, a very strong Heart suit and a very strong Club suit, plus a Spade void

To make it, you are looking for your partner to cover just 1 of these losers, which is a very good chance

[Could you miss slam by jumping straight to 4H? Yes, but as South opened, this is very unlikely. If by chance, Partner (East) has 3 or 4 quick tricks (Aces and Kings), then he should bid 6H, maybe asking for Aces first]

Bidding 4H can also have 'shut-out' benefits if NS have a game on – they need to find it fast!

So, bid 4H. Bang, 4H immediately, no hesitation

Alternatively, if you just bid 1H as West, then North may or may not bid 1S (I would despite the lack of Honour cards, because North has 6 Spades, and is NV and the aim at the Bridge Table is to be

disruptive to your opponents). If North bids 1 Spade, East could bid 1NT, but having no Diamond coverage makes it hard. A good convention here is for East to Double, telling West 'I have no easy bid, but have some points'

If North passes, East may Pass (thinking West is just making a 1H overcall and does not have much), or maybe East will bid 1S, 1NT, or Double (I prefer 1S)

[If East does bid 1S, 1NT, or Double, then I would bid 4H immediately as West]

Irrespective, finding 4H by West is harder through this bidding route, especially if NS keep bidding or find a fit

In summary, even with enough for Game, EW often fall short in these situations– say 3H

West can make it easy by bidding 4H at the start

THE PLAY (West is Declarer in 4H)

West will lose 2 Diamonds and 1 Club, 4H made

MORAL OF THE STORY

Count your losers and

..... BID 4H immediately!

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

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