This hand came up last week. You are South as dealer, both Vul:

South (Dealer)

AQ98543

A108762

A 7-6 shape is extremely rare. So, how do you bid it?

Shape over-rides points when you have a hand like this. You only have 10 HCP, but you only have 3 losers (HK, CK and CQ)

Some partnerships play a 2C opening with 3 or less losers. Usually, this is a game-force opening as well

No matter how you assess it, you must be in game with such a strong hand

I prefer to open 1H and see what partner says, planning to rebid 2C (a new suit at the 2 level is a 1 round force). Instead of 2C, you could jump to 3C, showing a strong 2-suiter, but that crowds the bidding, and what do you do if Partner bids 3NT?

Here is the full deal:

97643 6 AK9 **K953**

KJ8 AQ1052 K1072 J10873 Q6542 4 QJ

AQ98543

A108762

The Bidding went:

S Ε 1H 1S(1) P 3C(2) -2C

The bidding was explained as follows:

- (1) You should bid your 5 card Spade suit (yes, it is a weak suit, but you must show it Partner may have 3 or 4 Spades, or it may help Partner find 3NT if he has very few Spades)
- (2) Should North have bid 4C? I think so, as South must have 5 Clubs for the bid, and it looks like a cross-ruff will be on
- (3) South is looking for North to have some of HK, HJ, CK, CQ or CJ. Given North has bid twice, I would bid 6C

At our Table, South signed off at 5C

THE PLAY

West led DJ, South won in Dummy throwing a Heart from Hand, drew Clubs, ending in Dummy, played another top Diamond throwing another Heart. He then led H6, covered East's HJ with HQ, taken by West's HK. It was then all over with 2 heart ruffs in Dummy, making 12 tricks

MORAL OF THE STORY

With very shapely Hands, you should bid high. Here I would have bid 6C

Ian Morison

Bridge lover 16 June 2023