

Merry Christmas 2012

This little bridge problem was part of my 2012 Christmas card. It asked:
"How does each bid (and each pass) describe the hands? At the end of the bidding, what is each hand holding? South is dealer, neither pair is vulnerable."

South West North East

1♠	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3♦	P
3♠	P	5♦	End

The commentary is on the next page.

South West North East Comment

1♠			L4+♠. Basic option a: 12..19 pts if unbalanced. Basic option b: 15..19 pts if balanced. Could be as few as 10..11 pts if light opening shape raises to 12 pts level (eg meets rule of 20 or L6+suit). <i>Will not be 4441 shape as would not open spades.</i>
	P		Not suitable to overbid. Maybe no L5+ suit, or L5+ suit is poor. Maybe under 11 points. <i>Need 11+ points to overcall at the 2 level.</i> Maybe long suit is spades.
		2♣	8+ pts to bid at the 2 level. Definitely L3-♠, otherwise would support. Possibly L2-♠, otherwise might support. L4+♣.
			P
			Not suitable to overbid. Maybe no L5+ suit, or L5+ suit is poor. Maybe under 11 points. Maybe long suit is spades or clubs.
2♦			L5+♠, L4+♦. Unbalanced. 10..15pts (else would have jump bid).
	P		No significant new information.
		3♦	L2-♠ else would support spades, L4+♦, as does support diamonds. 10+ pts.
			P
			No significant new information.
3♠			Diamonds have now been agreed. This additional try at spades must show something extra. So either L6+♠, or more points (or both), asking to play game in a major if partner has L2+♠. Above minimum points, maybe 14..15 pts.
	P		No significant new information.
		5♦	Game bid. Doesn't have even 2 spades Thinks game on, so opposite 14..15 pts must have 12+ pts.
			End

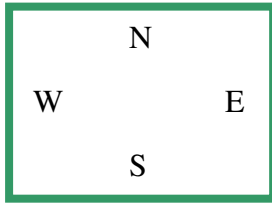
South	L6+♠, L4+♦, leaving 3 cards for ♣ and ♥. 14..15 pts.
West	Little concrete information. Maybe no L5+ suit. Maybe under 11 points. Maybe long suit is spades.
North	12+ pts. L1-♠, L4+♦, L4+♣. So L5-♥. Likely L4-♥ as would otherwise have bid hearts. Shape 5♣4♦3♥1♠ or 5♣4♦4♥0♠ or 4♣4♦4♥1♠ likeliest.
East	Little concrete information. Maybe no L5+ suit. Maybe under 11 points. Maybe long suit is spades or clubs.

The contract is "5D by S".
What should W lead? The obvious suit is hearts.

The actual deal:

(10)
♠ 4
♥ A654
♦ K632
♣ K652

(9)
♠ KT82
♥ KQ97
♦ J97
♣ T8



(7)
♠ J9
♥ JT83
♦ Q4
♣ QJ974

(14)
♠ AQ7653
♥ 2
♦ AT85
♣ A3