

Planning the play

W 1H P P
N P 2H 4S
E P P
S 1S 2S

Q9732
93
A10
Q753

Do you bid or pass? This would be a short page if we did not bid so I say 1 spade. Though your hand is not great East has a horrible hand and partner likely has values.

Partner bids 2 hearts, a limit raise or better in spades. Slow down partner. Trying to slow him down we bid 2 spades. Partner ignores us and bids 4 spades anyway.

Here is partner's hand

A864
AJ6
863
KJ4

Did partner overbid? He sure did. Passing 2 spades or bidding 3 spades only would have been more reasonable.

Tip – One thing I have learned over time is once the contract is placed go about the business of making the best of it. Let's look at the hand up close.

A864 **Opening lead the king of hearts**
AJ6
863
KJ4

Q9732
93
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Remember that the left hand opponent opened 1 heart. How about planning the play? We need some help on this hand to make it. How many potential losers do we have. 3 spades, 1 diamond, 1 heart and 2 possible clubs. Could be yucky! Would you believe the key to this hand is trick 1! When west leads the king of hearts there is a strong assumption he has the queen. So if we duck the first trick do you see what will happen? You will be able to finesse the jack of hearts and cash the ace, pitching the losing diamond. One might argue that you can take the ace and lead towards the jack later but the hand has entry problems in that the defense will be able to cash a diamond winner before the declarer can set up the pitch. Here are the four hands.

**A864
AJ6
863
KJ4**

**KJ
KQ1075
KQ2
862**

**105
842
J9754
A109**

**Maybe partner knew what he
was doing after all!**

**Q9732
93
A10
Q753**