

Dir: W Vul: None	♠ ♥875 ♦1098732 ♣J976	
♠KJ10985 ♥A3 ♦5 ♣10542		♠AQ76432 ♥QJ10642 ♦ ♣
	♠ ♥K9 ♦AKQJ64 ♣AKQ83	

Thinking At the Bridge Table

**The bidding 1S P 4NT 5S
P P P!!!!**

The opening lead was the five of diamonds and east west took 13 tricks. Down 11 for 550. What in the world is going on? What were the thought processes each person went through?

1. West opened extremely light. When partner bid 4NT he thought, "Oh no, what have I done?"
2. East bid 4NT, rather than jumping to six spades, trying to keep north south out of the auction.
3. South could have bid 5NT for the minors, but he wanted his partner to know what a powerful hand he had so he bid 5 spades.
4. West passed 5 spades with relief since he did not think a slam was makeable due to his dubious opening.
5. **North passed!!!! He reasoned that six spades was easily makeable. He knew that if the opponents doubled his partner could always correct to his best suit.**
6. East passed!!! He was not sure they could make a slam. He assumed if he doubled his opponents would find their makeable slam. He also thought it would be fun to defend.

Post mortem

East West can make 7 spades on this hand. North south can make 6 diamonds with south declaring and a spade or heart lead and with north declaring and a spade lead.