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BIDDING 6-PACK

Problems

Board 2	N-S Vul
♠ KQ985	<i>East South West North</i>
♥ 632	1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass
♦ J9	??
♣ AK2	

Board 8	None Vul
♠ 62	<i>South West North East</i>
♥ 6	Pass 1NT Pass
♦ QT752	??
♣ 76542	

Board 12	N-S Vul
♠ 976	<i>South West North East</i>
♥ AQJ83	Pass 1♦ 1♥
♦ 854	??
♣ 75	

Board 18	N-S Vul
♠ AKJ	<i>South West North East</i>
♥ Q97	Pass Pass
♦ J	1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
♣ A98653	??

Board 29	Both Vul
♠ KQ6	<i>West North East South</i>
♥ AQ	1♣ Pass Pass
♦ AJ983	??
♣ K65	

Board 31	N-S Vul
♠ KQT96	<i>South West North East</i>
♥ KJ854	Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
♦ 95	1♠ Pass 3♣ Pass
♣ 9	??

Solutions

Board 2	N-S Vul
♠ KQ985	<i>East South West North</i>
♥ 632	1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass
♦ J9	??
♣ AK2	

In this 2/1 auction, what are East's rebid options?

- 2NT? Not a good idea with three small in the unbid Heart suit.
- 3♣? At least that would show the Club concentration, but it would also show a stronger and/or more distributional hand.
- 2♠? By a process of elimination, East rebids 2♠. Ideally, East would have a 6th Spade for this bid, but sometimes it's not possible, and here 2♠ is the rebid which is the least undesirable.

Board 8	None Vul
♠ 62	<i>South West North East</i>
♥ 6	Pass 1NT Pass
♦ QT752	??
♣ 76542	

South would like to play in 3♣ or 3♦, whichever is North's better minor. What are your methods? Some play that 3♣ here shows this type of hand, and that's convenient on the rare occasion when it comes up. But it might be better to use 1NT-3♣ for other purposes (such as Puppet Stayman if you are apt to open 1NT with a 5-card major).

Do you play Minor Suit Transfers (1NT-2♣ transfers to Clubs, 1NT-2NT to Diamonds)? If you do, the next question is "After 1NT-2NT, do you use 3♣ to say that you like Diamonds, or do you use 3♦?" For the time being let's assume that 3♦ is your chosen method (in other words, you bid 'em if you like 'em). In that case, the solution to the above hand is to bid 2NT, transferring to Diamonds:

- If North likes Diamonds, she bids 3♦ and that is where she will play it.
- If North does not like Diamonds, she bids 3♣ and again that is where she will play it.

Of course, some play the responses to South's transfer the other way around, and the analogous method in that case is to use one of these sequences:

- 1NT 2♠, 2NT 3♣ (playing in 3♣ when North likes Clubs)
- 1NT 2♠, 3♣ 3♠ (playing in Diamonds when North does not like Clubs).

Board 12	N-S Vul			
♠ 976	<i>South West North East</i>			
♥ AQJ83	Pass	1♣	1♥	
♦ 854	??			
♣ 75				

One possibility is for South to pass 1♥, in the confident expectation that North will reopen with a Double, which South will pass. But is that really such a good idea? Remember, N-S are vulnerable, and E-W are not, so:

- If N-S have game, then to compensate for that, they must score no fewer than 10 tricks on defense to 1♥ doubled.
- If N-S do not have game, then they must score 8 tricks against 1♥ doubled.

Now, as it happens, N-S do not have game but can score +300 by defending 1♥ doubled. That's all very well, but it probably will not go that way. West will bail out, either by bidding 1♠ or by redoubling. Whichever West chooses, his side will escape for -100, and that will not be good for N-S.

So, our suggestion is for South to bid an immediate 1NT after the 1♥ overcall. It's a descriptive and limiting bid, which will probably be passed out, scoring 8 tricks.

Board 18	N-S Vul			
♠ AKJ	<i>South West North East</i>			
♥ Q97				Pass
♦ J	1♣	Pass	1♣	Pass
♣ A98653	??			

South does not really have a good rebid here. The choices are:

- 3♣: A bit ambitious, not such a great Club suit, and could lose the Spade fit.
- 2♣: Also a slight underbid.
- 3♠: This is supposed to show 4-card support, but otherwise OK.
- 2♠: This is the bid you would most likely get from a panel of experts.

We rather like 3♠ ourselves, even though it is somewhat unilateral (as it pretty much commits the partnership to play in Spades). However, it is about right on values, and those Spades are rather fine.

The aforementioned panel of experts will not do well on this board. North has no reason to bid on after South's 2♠ rebid, and they'll play in the part-score. The unilateral 3♣ bidders will get to (and make) game.

Board 29	Both Vul				
♠ KQ6	<i>West North East South</i>				
♥ AQ		1♣	Pass	Pass	
♦ AJ983	??				
♣ K65					

North has opened 1♠, which is passed around to West. What are your No Trump ranges in this situation? Here's one possibility (as usual, you'll want to allow a little fuzziness in these ranges):

- 1NT: 11-15
- Double then NT: 16-18
- 2NT: 19-20
- Double then Jump in NT: 21-22

So, here, West bids 2NT, after which it makes life easier if you play "systems on". Which system, though, the one you use for 1NT or the one for 2NT? We'd suggest the 2NT system, not because it is necessarily superior in this situation, but because it's consistent (less to remember).

Board 31	N-S Vul				
♠ KQJ96	<i>South West North East</i>				
♥ KJ854	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	
♦ 95	1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	
♣ 9	??				

Consider these three auctions:

(A)	(B)	(C)
<i>South North</i>	<i>South North</i>	<i>South North</i>
Pass 1♣	Pass 1♣	Pass 1♣
1♠ 3♣	1♠ 3♣	1♠ 3♣
3♣	3♣	3♥

Auction A is *forcing*. South has six Spades and is looking for the best game (or slam). She is not trying to escape into a better part score. With a rotten hand, no Club fit and long Spades, South just has to suck it up and pass 3♣, hoping for the best.

Auction B is commonly used as a flavor of New Minor Forcing. If so, South has five Spades and may or may not have Hearts. If she does have Hearts it will be just four of them.

It follows that Auction C shows a hand which is 5-5 in the majors (or maybe even more).

So there you have it. On this hand, South bids 3♥ (at least 5-5 and enough for game).