

AN AGGRESSIVE BID AT THE RIGHT TIME

You are sitting in the South, not vulnerable. West opens 1♣ and North, your partner, overcalls 2♠. His jump overcall shows less than opening point count and a good 6-card spade suit. East responds 2NT, and after your pass, West rebids 3♣. There are two passes to you. What would you do?

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	2 ♠	2NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	??

South
 ♠ -----
 ♥ KQ10632
 ♦ KJ1064
 ♣ 42

Most would probably pass and allow West to play in 3♣. When I played this hand, I bid 3♥.

There are several factors that influenced my competitive 3♥ bid. First, we are not vulnerable. It's always better to hold your frisky bids to when you are not vulnerable – especially you're your opponents are vulnerable. Second, I'm 6-5 in the red suits. Both of them are quality suits, containing 3 of the top 5 honors. Using upgrades, this 9 HCP hand is worth about 14 points. Third, if I can push West to 4♣, there is a good chance we can set them. I might take 1 heart and 1 diamond. That leaves 2 tricks that my partner might take in spades.

Here is the entire hand:

	N North ♠ KJ9743 ♥ J8 ♦ Q8 ♣ K53	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">W</th> <th style="width: 25%;">N</th> <th style="width: 25%;">E</th> <th style="width: 25%;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♣	2♠	2NT	P	3♣	P	P	3♥	4♣	P	P	P
W	N	E	S															
1♣	2♠	2NT	P															
3♣	P	P	3♥															
4♣	P	P	P															
W West ♠ Q865 ♥ A9 ♦ 2 ♣ AJ10876		E East ♠ A102 ♥ 754 ♦ A9753 ♣ Q9																
	S South ♠ ----- ♥ KQ10632 ♦ KJ1064 ♣ 42																	
		4♣ W NS: 0 EW: 0																

I prayed that partner would lead a spade to give the effort a good start. But, of course, he led a heart, won by declarer. West went to the dummy in diamonds and led the ♣Q for the losing finesse to my partner's king. I didn't expect that trick. Partner sent back another heart which I won. My next heart was ruffed high by declarer, who then pulled trump. He tried to develop the spades, but he finally had to end up in his hand from which he had to lead his spades. We set the contract, getting 2 spades, 1 heart and 1 club – for a 4 imp gain.

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/ox7mt5z>, copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the “Next” button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on “Play” you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.