

## PERSEVERANCE SAVES THE DAY

You are sitting North and you are the dealer. Would you open?

North  
♠5  
♥QJ42  
♦AK10  
♣J10765

Some would open 1♣ with this hand. You would be happy if partner responded 1♥ or 1♥. But most likely, he would bid 1♠. What is your rebid? It's dangerous to rebid 1NT with only one spade; rebidding your moth-eaten club suit doesn't look very appealing. Bidding hearts or diamonds is a reverse and shows a hand in excess of 16 points. It might be better to pass with this 12 pointer and see what develops.

East opens 1♣ and your partner overcalls 1♥, which is passed by West. You can't believe you heard correctly. Your hand now revalues to 14 dummy points. You can show this shape by "splintering". That is, making a double jump to 3♠. This tells partner you have heart support, a singleton spade and you don't want to stop bidding until you have at least reached game.

South gets excited now and after cue bidding for controls and checking for aces, settles for 6♥. West leads the ♣9. If you were now sitting in South, how would you plan the play?

	North	
	♠5	
	♥QJ42	
	♦AK10	
	♣J10765	
West		East
♣9		
	South	
	♠J87	
	♥AK10875	
	♦J64	
	♣A	

In a trump contract, you count the losers in your hand: you have 3 spade losers and a diamond loser. You can trump two of the spades in the dummy, but you still must deal with the diamond loser. The answer lies in the dummy's club suit. If the outstanding clubs break 4-3, you can set up the 5<sup>th</sup> club as a winner upon which you can discard the losing diamond. And if they

