

USING THE DRURY CONVENTION

Your partner deals and passes. So does your RHO and you open 1♠ with this nice hand:

| S | South |
|---|-------|
| ♠ | AKQJ3 |
| ♥ | A832 |
| ♦ | 9 |
| ♣ | K32 |

West passes and your partner responds 2♣. This isn't a natural bid. It is called Drury, or Reverse Drury, to be exact. It is a conventional bid that says he has support for spades and an invitational hand of 10-12 points or so. He is asking you if you have a full opener or did you open light in 3rd seat. It is a common practice to open with 9 to 11 points after two passes, making it hard on the 4th hand. To get into the bidding, West now has to use overcalls and doubles, which makes finding the optimum contract harder.

You do have a full opening hand. In fact, you have more than a full opening. You have 17 HCP and with partner supporting your spades, you can add about 4 more points. You should show this by jumping into hearts (3♥). Any bid other than 2♠ says you have your points for the opening. Your jump says you have between 16 and 18 points.

From here, the bidding should go:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|------|--------|
| | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3♠ (1) | Pass | 4♣ (2) |
| Pass | 4♦ (3) | Pass | 4♥ (4) |

Pass 4♠ (5) Pass Pass (6)
Pass

- (1) Partner is merely confirming his spade support at the minimum level
- (2) Since you are in the slam zone, this is a cue bid, saying you are interested in slam and this is the lowest suit in which you have a 1st or 2nd round control
- (3) Partner is cooperating by telling you he has a control in diamonds.
- (4) You are bidding the next suit in which you have a control
- (5) Partner is saying, "Looking at my hand, I suggest we play in 4♠."
- (6) You accept partner's recommendation and settle for the game contract.

West leads the ♠9 and you partner tables this hand:

| N | North |
|---|-------|
| ♠ | 754 |
| ♥ | J105 |
| ♦ | AKJ73 |
| ♣ | J6 |

West leads ♠9

| S | South |
|---|-------|
| ♠ | AKQJ3 |
| ♥ | A832 |
| ♦ | 9 |
| ♣ | K32 |

Now you understand why North suggested signing off in only game. It will take some effort to take even 10 tricks with these two hands.

You start with 3 potential heart losers and 3 club losers. You might be lucky and find that hearts break 3-3 (35%), which will give you 1 less heart loser. You might also make the ♣K good on a finesse. And you can easily eliminate another loser on the dummy's good diamond.

You win the trump lead and clear the spade suit in 3 rounds. You lead a diamond to the dummy's ♦A and discard a club on the ♦K. Do not finesse the ♦J. If the ♦Q is off side, then you will be losing a diamond trick that you didn't count on and there will be no way to get into dummy's hand to cash the ♦AK

After you finish the diamonds, run the ♥J to West's ♥Q. Say West leads the ♦Q. There is no better return. You ruff this in hand and lead a heart up to dummy's ♥10. East will take his ♥K and will lead a club. Do not put up the ♣K. Use the ♣J in dummy for a free finesse. West will have to win this with his ♣A and now your ♣K takes a trick. All you have to do now is play the ♥A and pray that both opponents follow suit. Now your 4th heart will take the 10th trick for your 4♠ contract.

This is the entire deal:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------|-------|---|-------|-------|------|------|---|------|-----|---|--|------|---|-----|---|-----|---|------|---|-------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|
| <table border="1"> <tr><td>D</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> | | D | 1 | <table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>North</td></tr> <tr><td>♠</td><td>754</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>J105</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>AKJ73</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>J6</td></tr> </table> | N | North | ♠ | 754 | ♥ | J105 | ♦ | AKJ73 | ♣ | J6 | <table border="1"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2♣</td><td>P</td><td>3♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>4♣</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>4♦</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>4♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table> | W | N | E | S | P | P | P | 1♠ | P | 2♣ | P | 3♥ | P | 3♣ | P | 4♣ | P | 4♦ | P | 4♥ | P | 4♠ | P | P |
| D | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | North | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ | 754 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ | J105 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ | AKJ73 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ | J6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | N | E | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | P | P | 1♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | 2♣ | P | 3♥ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | 3♣ | P | 4♣ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | 4♦ | P | 4♥ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | 4♠ | P | P | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| W | West | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ | 986 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ | Q97 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ | Q862 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ | A105 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | East | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ | 102 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ | K64 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ | 1054 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ | Q9874 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| S | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ | AKQJ3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ | A832 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ | K32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4♠ S | NS: 0 EW: 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ddcwe2> , or 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.

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