

## WHEN A SACRIFICE ISN'T

Competitive bidding has become the norm. It's seldom we get the bidding all to ourselves anymore. The bidding shown here is typical when the hands are all distributional.

This is a hand that I played in a recent Regional Tournament. I was sitting North.

	D		
1		N North	W N E S
		♠ K1097	1♠ X 2♣
		♥ Q4	3♠ P 4♠ 5♣
		♦ 10	P P X P
		♣ AK6542	P P
W West			E East
♠ AJ653			♠ Q84
♥ 32			♥ AK75
♦ A963			♦ QJ872
♣ Q3			♣ J
		S South	
		♠ 2	
		♥ J10986	
		♦ K54	
		♣ 10987	
			5♠x N NS: 0 EW: 0

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Dbl (1)	2♣ (2)
3♠ (3)	Pass (4)	4♠ (5)	5♣ (6)
Pass	Pass	Dbl (7)	All Pass

- (1) East doubled for takeout. He has only 3 spades, but he wants to make sure he is in the right suit; the suit with the most combined cards
- (2) South only has 5 HCP, but his singleton spade improves the hand somewhat. East's double shows 4 hearts, so he doesn't want to bid his 5-card weak heart suit. Just to compete and not get his partner too excited, he made a single raise to 2♣.
- (3) Notice that West doesn't bid 2♠. That would be lazy bidding. He has 11 HCP and a 5-card spade suit. He jumps to the 3-level to describe his hand perfectly.
- (4) North would like nothing more than to have the opponents play in spades. He passes, expecting East to raise to 4♠. He intended to double that contract.
- (5) East is disappointed his partner didn't pick hearts, but he now adds his dummy points to his 13 HCP and makes an easy raise to 4♠.
- (6) Before North can double this contract for penalty, his partner pushes the contract to 5♣. His singleton spade means he has only 1 spade loser. The fact that East double clubs indicated to him that East was short clubs and his partner probably held long clubs. This was a sacrifice bid. He didn't have any hope of making the contract, but since he was non vulnerable, he was willing to gamble that either he wouldn't be doubled; or if he was doubled, he wouldn't be set more than two tricks.

- (7) West passed the decision to double over to East, who had no intention to let this sacrifice play undoubled.

East led off the two top hearts and they got a spade and heart as well. That's down two, doubled for -300. Of course, this was a good score if you are playing duplicate, when East/West could make 4♠ for -420. So this sacrifice actually paid off. We got a top on the board

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

<http://tinyurl.com/oqae3b9> . 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.