

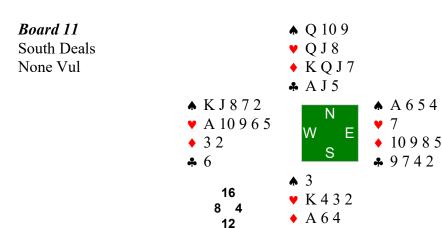
EW 6♥; EW 5N; EW 5♠; EW 2♠; EW 2♣; Par -1430: EW 6♥=

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 🔻	Pass
3 <b>v</b>	Pass	4 N	Pass
<b>5</b> ♦	Pass	5 N	Pass
<b>6</b> ♦	Pass	6 <b>y</b>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bidding: With a three-loser hand, East could open a game force, but bidding space may be needed to show both suits so it is better to open 1H, planning to reverse into spades. If West shows a limit raise of hearts (naturally as in the given auction, or via some conventional method), East could jump straight to 6H, or go more slowly as shown. Many West players will prefer not to show an immediate limit raise when holding only three-card support for opener's major, and will instead temporise with a change of suit or a (semi-)forcing 1 NT response, but the bidding should still finish in 6H.

Play: The DQ is led. Declarer could try to set up spades by ruffing. With spades 3-3, this line will not encounter any difficulties - but a better line is to cash the ace and king of diamonds, ditching the CA, then lead out the clubs to drive out the CK. This ruffing finesse loses, but that is of no concern, for there are now 12 tricks available and all suits controlled, so declarer draws trumps, finishing in dummy, and claims the contract. Declarers who draw trumps before considering what to do with the spade losers should be defeated.

Hand/commentary thanks to Derrick Browne - Trumps Bridge Centre - trumps.net.au



NS 4N; EW 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 3♠; NS 3♣; Par +430: NS 4N=

West	North	East	South
			1 🚓
2 🚓	3 NT	4 <b>^</b>	Pass
Pass	4 NT	All pass	

♣ K Q 10 8 3

Bidding: Michaels overcalls are made on weak or strong hands. North South have plenty of points for game, and will easily make ten tricks, but the best bid of all is if East sacrifices in 4 . This puts the pressure on North South to either double or bid 4 NT. I suspect very few will take the sacrifice over 3 NT, and if it is made NS might more likely bid 5C which fails.

Two-suited hands play well, and defend poorly. It is clear from the bidding that NS have plenty of points, with tricks in the minors as well as stoppers in EW's suits. EW has nothing in the minors. Holding a singleton in hearts and four spades gives you a good chance to do well in 4 \( \blacktriangle \). Bid it, because it gives you two advantages: your sacrifice will net them a poor score (they will take ten tricks in no trumps, and you may push them to bid something they can't make."). If you play in 4 \( \blacktriangle X, \) don't touch trumps, but trump the hearts, and you should make nine tricks.

Play: The play for 4 NT is straight forward.

Hand/commentary thanks to Joan Butts - Joan Butts Bridge https://www.joanbuttsbridge.com/

Joan is happy to respond to any contesting player with any further questions about this hand - email joan@joanbuttsbridge.com.

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