

Rebid in Hearts -- Problem



♠ 7 5 4 3
 ♥ A K Q J 6 5
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass	?

1. Semi-forcing.

Join South for this deal with matchpoint scoring from "The Bidding Box" in *Bridge Bulletin*, April 2022. Both expert pairs were playing a two-over-one game force system, with a semi-forcing 1 NT response.

What would you bid?

Please don't say that you would open 2 ♦ (expanded Flannery), showing four spades and five or six hearts. That's not really a spade suit!

Rebid in Hearts -- Solution

♠ A J 6
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ Q 6 5 3
 ♣ Q 10 8 7



♠ 7 5 4 3
 ♥ A K Q J 6 5
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	?		

1. Semi-forcing.

A *loser* is any of the first three cards held in a suit that are not an ace, king or a queen. South has a five loser hand, three spades and two diamonds. This the proper number of losers for a jump rebid of 3 ♥ -- assuming the hand is worth an invitation -- and that's the bid both expert Souths chose.

One North bid 3 NT and played there. The other North tried 3 ♠ as a choice of games between 3 NT and 4 ♥, and also played in 3 NT. This contract is not great, but better than 4 ♥. The scores awarded were: 2 ♥ 11; 2 NT 9; 3 ♥ 6; 3 NT 5; 4 ♥ 2.

North has a fine acceptance of game, yet no game is a good bet. The South hand is likely to produce exactly seven tricks. To be able to *lay down* nine tricks, North would need to provide the two missing aces, or one ace with a king that fits an ace (and not have that ace dislodged, if the ♣ K). Queens and jacks in the North hand have little or chance of taking the ninth trick, except perhaps in spades, yet North will surely be counting them.

In my opinion, a singleton ace is worth three points, unless and until a big trump fit is found. The ♣ A is not pulling its weight. On this deal, the ♠ K would be a better card! Furthermore, the ♥ J is not really pulling its weight -- it does not add a trick so much as prevent losing an extra trick on a bad split. The fourth spade is a likely loser in a heart contract.

The South hand is not worth a game invitation; losing trick count is a secondary consideration. The correct rebid is 2 ♥; North would pass, and the top score would be achieved. (With a slightly better hand, North would invite a game, and South would be pleased to accept.)