

## Big Hearts -- Problem

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul



♠ Q  
♥ A K Q 10 6 5 3 2  
♦ K  
♣ J 10 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	?

Join me for a deal at matchpoint pairs on BBO. What would each of these actions mean here?

1 ♥ =

2 ♥ =

3 ♥ =

4 ♥ =

Double, then bid hearts =

2 ♠ =

2 NT =

Which would you choose?

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

Big Hearts -- Solution

	♠ K J 4										
	♥ J 4										
	♦ Q 9 7 3										
	♣ Q 7 3 2										
♠ A 10 9 6 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; font-size: 10px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 7 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 9		♥ 8 7									
♦ A J 5 4		♦ 10 8 6 2									
♣ A 9		♣ K 6 5 4									
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	♥ A K Q 10 6 5 3 2										
	♦ K										
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NS 3N; EW 3♠; NS 2♥; EW 3♦; NS 2♣; Par +100: EW 4♦×-1; EW 4♠×-1  

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	?

Some things about reopening you just have to know, but here is a way to figure out the rest:

**Principle:** When reopening the bidding, borrow a king from partner. When partner has reopened, subtract that borrowed king from our hand, and act accordingly.

1 ♥ = Four or more hearts and at least 8 HCP. People do reopen with less, but it's likely to work out badly. It's usually correct to pass out a flattish hand with four (and often with three) cards in the opening suit. Be careful of letting the opponents improve the contract to an unbid suit, especially a major.

2 ♥ = 14 to 16 support points and a decent suit of six cards or longer\* -- a hole between 1 ♥ and Double+♥.

3 ♥ = (recommendation) A good preempt with which we expect to make 3 ♥, opposite a random 10-count.\*

4 ♥ = Hope to make, based on shape.

Double, then bid hearts = Normally, a strong suit with 18 HCP, so we can borrow a king and do it with 15.

2 ♠ = Michaels, with a decent hand.\*

2 NT = Balanced 19-20 HCP, systems on.\*

\* Reference: *Balancing in Contract Bridge*, Revised Edition, Mike Lawrence © 1983, 2012.

With no understanding about 3 ♥ (we are too good for that, anyhow), I chose 4 ♥. The defense was brutal: ♣ A, ♠ A, ♦ A, ♣ 9 to the ♣ K, club ruff -- two in the glue for a 25% board.

The most likely winning action is Double. Partner bids 1 NT, we see our eight tricks, plus six points to help find a ninth, and settle in the top contract, 3 NT. The value of the side cards for notrump did not occur to me.

Down-valuing all the stuff on the side, 2 ♥ makes sense. Partner said he would come in with 2 NT, so we would again get to 3 NT. If 2 ♥ is passed out, at least we go plus.