


**Board 10**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

Support with Support

<p>♠ Q 5 4 ♥ 9 8 5 3 ♦ K J 9 4 ♣ 3 2</p>		<p>♠ — ♥ K 10 6 4 ♦ A Q 8 7 2 ♣ J 10 7 5</p>	<p>♠ K 10 9 7 3 2 ♥ — ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ A K Q 8</p>
<p>♠ A J 8 6 ♥ A Q J 7 2 ♦ 3 ♣ 9 6 4</p>			

NS 4♥; NS 2N; EW 2♠; NS 2♣; N 1♦; Par +500; EW 4♠×-2

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All pass			
4♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ 4			
Made 4 — NS +620			

When partner opens the bidding in a major suit, I believe that a single raise should provide two to three sure cover cards (winners). When our values are insufficient, we can use the *slow-down raise* (respond 1 NT, and then prefer the major). For some time, I have been testing the theory that the raise of an overcall should provide something like two winners. This is the deal that, for me, has disproved that theory. The old adage, "support with support" is true.

After an overcall, there is no 1 NT forcing. Thinking my diamonds were crap, I decided to pass over 2♥. This handcuffed partner, and the opponents scored up a 78% board. (Although declarer took the diamond finesse and dumped a club, they played cautiously afterward, and did not make five.)

Had I raised, Andrew said he would have bid 4♠ over 4♥. He had a 5-loser hand. My diamonds do combine with his ten to provide a third-round winner. Unfortunately we probably lose three trump tricks to go two down. All the stuff that makes the game for the opponents sets us, turning 4♠ doubled into a good save, losing three trumps and two diamonds for -500.

A raise includes partner in the rest of the auction, while passing leaves us both out. Clearly, my hand was good enough to raise.