

01/04/11 Handicap Game

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ 7		
	♥ A K 9 4		
	♦ Q 9 3 2		
	♣ K J 9 2		
♠ A Q J 9 6 4 2		♠ 8	
♥ 8 6		♥ Q J 10 7	
♦ J 4		♦ A K 8 5	
♣ 7 5		♣ A Q 10 3	
	♠ K 10 5 3		
	♥ 5 3 2		
	♦ 10 7 6		
	♣ 8 6 4		

EW 4♠; EW 3N; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 3♣

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Rachel</i>	<i>Tony</i>	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Pete</i>
		1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by West

Above is how GIB would have bid the hand. However, Barbara did not care for an overcall on four mediocre hearts. She passed, correctly rejected the takeout double and 1NT. When I passed, Rachel tried 3♠. I don't recall ever seeing this before!

Mike Lawrence, in *Balancing*, says there are lots of opinions on this jump; having a sensible agreement is a good thing. He recommends it should show "a good preempt with which you expect to make your contract opposite a random ten count." His first example is ♠KJ108764 ♥3 ♦AJ3 ♣42, a hand not substantially stronger than Rachel's.

Here are the basic reopening treatments Lawrence recommends over an opening bid:

Double - may be lighter than a standard takeout double, quite lighter with 4-4-4-1.

Bidding again after doubling shows about a king less than it would in direct seat.

1NT - a good 11 to 14, perhaps stronger over a major.

1 of a suit - starts at six points and a moderate 5-card suit, stronger on a 4-carder.

2 of a lower ranking suit - 5-card suit or longer; consider passing with shortness in higher suit.

2 of a higher ranking suit - a hand worth about 15 points with a decent 6-card suit.

3 of a lower ranking suit - aimed a 3NT, a very good suit worth about 15 points.

3 of a higher ranking suit - a sound preempt (see above).

Cue bid - a hand that cannot risk a penalty pass; Mike shows strong hands.

Kit Woolsey, in *Matchpoints*, says it should promise a void in a normal 3-suited opening hand.

I play Woolsey's method, which does not exclude Lawrence's, if you bid a strong hand again.

2NT - natural (never unusual), balanced, about 19-20.

Pass - Woolsey recommends passing with length in opener's suit, since partner would have acted with shortness and strength. Nevertheless, passing bets the opponents have made a mistake.