

Board 16
West Deals
E-W Vul

02/15/11 Jr. Fund

<p>♠ 9 7 6 4 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A 6 4 3 ♣ K 8 7</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ A J 9 ♦ K J 10 9 8 ♣ Q 10 5 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>♠ A K Q 10 8 3 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ A 4 3</p>
<p>♠ J 5 ♥ K Q 10 7 6 5 2 ♦ 7 ♣ J 9 6</p>			

EW 4♠; NS 3♥; EW 1♦; NS 1♣

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>	<i>Catherine</i>	<i>Ravi</i>	<i>Deborah</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥
Dbl	Pass	5 ♠	All pass

5 ♠ by East

Many Norths would open 1♦ on this hand, planning to either raise hearts or rebid clubs. Catherine chose to pass with shortness in the master suit. After that, the bidding is pretty much automatic, through East's 4♠ bid: West has a solid constructive raise, and East takes the easy shot at game. When I had GIB bid the hand, North also passed, and the bidding stopped at 4♠.

At our table, Deborah put us to the test with 5♥. I had no interest in continuing, so doubled. North passed, leaving Ravi in the hot seat. No question, he had a fine hand and a fine suit, yet it takes a favorable lie in the diamond suit (over to the ace and back to the queen) to take only ten tricks. Ravi bid one more and was down one. This hand illustrates two important principles:

The five level belongs to the opponents. When the opponents bid to the five level, it is *usually* correct to let them play it there. So without a clear indication that either your contract or the opponent's contract will make, it's best to go quietly. Change Ravi's hand to ♠AKQT853 ♥4 ♦K2 ♣A43 and 5♠ would be laydown. See that it takes a better high card (♦K, not Q) and an extra trump to make this the case. That hand might be worth a slam try, not just 4♠ and 5♠. On the actual hand, there are two or three slow losers in the minors, plus a heart loser.

Par result: The par result is obtained when both pairs do the best they can, in competition. Ignoring some esoteric complexities, the par contract is when neither side benefits by bidding more. This hand illustrates the principle well. The 4♠ contract is great for East-West, but North South do better to bid 5♥. If East-West bid further, they go down, so the best they can do is double 5♥. With double dummy best play, this goes down two, 300 for East-West. This is not as good as 620 in 4♠, but better than -100 in 5♠.