

Long Suit -- Problem

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul



♠ 7 3
♥ K 9 4
♦ A K 9 8 7 6
♣ 7 5

West

Pass

North

1 ♠

East

2 ♥

South

?

Join me for a club matchpoint pairs game.

What are our reasonable options here?

Which would you choose?

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

Long Suit -- Solution

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

NS 3♠; NS 3♣; NS 1N; NS 2♦; Par +140; NS 1♠+2			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	?

Our reasonable options are:

Pass -- Partner will probably bid 3 ♣, which should show 10 cards in the blacks, likely 5-5. We play 3 ♠. If partner chooses to pass, we should collect at least +200 at 2 ♥ for a top - only because this deal is a misfit. North is too weak and shapely to double.

2 NT -- the value bid, not forcing. If partner passes, we'll probably go down, but we have been down before. However, we won't get to diamonds that way, and it may be necessary.

Double -- ostensibly promising both minors, we may choose to bid that way on a constructive one-suiter, if we can handle what opener does. We bid a non-forcing 3 ♦ over opener's 3 ♣. Applying S. J. Simon to this case: the balance of the information indicates a misfit, so North stops bidding. One down in this contract.

3 ♦ -- we have minimum strength for this forcing bid, a decent suit, and spade tolerance. Hating diamonds, North makes the weakest possible bid, a non-forcing 3 ♠. This lets us off the hook, and partner may make it. With good values and ♦ Q-x, partner could have bid 3 ♥, asking for a stopper. 4 ♣ would show a more powerful two-suiter, preferably with reversed red-suit holdings. A 3 ♦ bid seems the best choice.