

From Friday, 7 February 2020 – Board 2

Hand record

Board 2	♠A85	
Dir: E	♥AT8	
Vul: N-S	♦KJT2	
	♣QJ2	
♠KJ64		♠Q73
♥3		♥K954
♦Q7		♦A95
♣AT9874		♣K65
15	♠T92	N: 1♦1♥
10 12	♥QJ762	S: 1♦1♥
3	♦8643	E: 3♣2♠1NT
	♣3	W: 4♣3♠1NT

Reader's question:

The bidding was:

W	N	E	S
		1NT	NB
2H	NB	2S	NB
3C	NB	4S	

We play transfers. My partner told me that she had a problem with the West hand. What is the best way to bid this hand?

Presumably you play transfers AND Stayman. The sequence you have given shows FIVE spades and FOUR(+) clubs. The best way to bid the West hand is to bid 2C (Stayman) and when East bids 2H, to now bid 3C which says: "I have four spades, no interest in hearts. I also have five or six clubs and not enough for game, so 3C may be our best spot".

And, as it happens, it is, but 4S could well make on a good day. Note that West's bidding was forcing but East could (and should) have bid 3S to show a minimum. 3S making would have been a top score!