

Pre-empting partner?

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One of the so-called "rules" of constructive bidding is not to pre-empt partner. Then again, many pairs routinely play weak jump shifts to a major suit in response to 1-of-a-minor, to show a 6-card suit and a very limited hand, say 3-5 or 4-6 hcp. That *is* a pre-empt of partner, as well as of the opponents. Would it apply to a jump shift to a minor suit at the 3-level? Let's say this is your hand:

♠ 9 8
♥ 5
♦ A 10 9 8 5 3 2
♣ 10 9 7

Not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, your partner opens 1C as dealer and next hand overcalls 1S. What, if anything, are you going to bid?

Well, that depends – if you have agreed that a double jump shift in response to 1C/1D, including in a contested auction, is pre-emptive with a 7+ suit, you can bid 3D. Otherwise, however, you have to pass. If you do have the agreement, you have done a very good job of getting in the way of the opponents, because this was the full deal, from the first evening of this year's Bong Bong Cup on 23 November:

Optimum:
S 3D; +110
LoTT: 17-16 = 1

♠ 9 8
♥ 5
♦ A 10 9 8 5 3 2
♣ 10 9 7

Bridge Solver Online:
John Goacher
Double Dummy Solver Module:
Bo Haglund

♠ Q 10 6 5 3
♥ A J 8 2
♦ K
♣ K 6 2

♠ J 4 2
♥ K 10 6 3
♦ Q J 7 4
♣ 8 5

13 4 7
16

♠ A K 7
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ 6
♣ A Q J 4 3

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	2	2	-	-	-
S	2	3	-	-	1
E	-	-	2	2	-
W	-	-	2	2	-

East-West can make 2S, so 3D by North going down one (losing two high diamonds, a heart, a club and one more trick to ♦7 on a trump promotion) is a very good result at matchpoints. Not so good is if North doesn't pass but tries to bid 2D and then 3D in an attempt to play there. That would explain the various notrump contracts going down a few, resulting in a greater loss than the -50 in 3D.

Another way of getting to 3D is to pass initially and then bid 3D in the pass-out seat after 1C-1S-P-2S-P-P. That should be to play – after all what sort of hand couldn't find a bid over 1S and now comes back in at the 3-level? Partner has to be weak with length!

