

Stretching ...

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Sometimes, you have to stretch to show your hand because it has potential even though you have limited high card values. On Wednesday 1 July the dealing computer generated quite a few distributional hands with potential. This was one of them:

♠K942
♥T7642
♦A84
♣6

Not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you see partner open 1D (promising 4+ cards) and RHO overcall 2C. What will you do?

In terms of high card points you really don't have a bid. But you do have both major suits, shortage in the opponent's suit and a fit for partner's diamonds. Why shouldn't partner have a major suit? You're only going to find out if you make a negative double, so despite having just 7 hcp, you should stretch and do just that.

If you do, LHO bids 2S, which doesn't help your cause much. But then to your surprise partner rebids 3H. RHO raises to 3S. What will you do now?

Partner has enough values to bid 3H in this auction, so must have a good diamond suit. You have a 9-card fit in hearts, the opponents are bidding spades so partner must have shortage in that suit, while you have shortage in clubs. From that perspective, raising to 4H seems quite reasonable. Yes, it's an even greater stretch, but your hand has improved considerably!

In fact 4H was unbeatable, because this was the full deal:

BD: 22	♠K942	Dlr: E
	♥T7642	Vul: EW
	♦A84	
	♣6	
♠AQJ3		♠T8765
♥Q		♥K83
♦T76		♦3
♣AK874		♣QJ53
	♠	
	♥AJ95	
	♦KQJ952	
	♣T92	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N	T
N	4	4		1		7
S	4	4		1	16	6
E	3		2			11
W	3		2			

At the table, West led ♣A and then quite rightly switched to diamond, hoping East could ruff. However declarer could win, then play ♥A and a heart to dummy's 10, ruff the spade return and draw the last trump, making 11 tricks. The double-dummy result of 4H just making can only be achieved if West leads a diamond, but that is never going to happen in real life.



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