

Dealer: E
Vul: Nil

♠ AKQ72
♥ A4
♦ 74
♣ 10863

E	S	W	N
P	1S	2C	2S
P	?		

What should South bid?

Bidding 22 When Your Suit is Bid to Your Left

Dealer: E

Vul: Nil

	♠ J543		
	♥ Q		
	♦ K96532		
	♣ J2		
♠ 98		♠ 106	
♥ KJ62		♥ 1098753	
♦ Q10		♦ AJ8	
♣ AKQ75		♣ 94	
	♠ AKQ72		
	♥ A4		
	♦ 74		
	♣ 10863		

E	S	W	N
P	1S	2C	2S
P	3S?	P	P
P			

West led CAK and a small club after partner encouraged. Declarer ruffed with the SJ, came to hand with HA and tried a low diamond to the king. Declarer lost 2 diamonds and another club was later overruffed by East for one down.

Was South just unlucky that the DA was wrong despite West being the overcaller?

It is *slightly* tempting to invite on the South hand. You have 13 HCPs and 2 doubletons for which you can add another 2 points now that you have a spade fit. A 15 count though is still a little short to do an invitational bid as opener – you normally have 16-18. However, your points are good (lots of aces and kings) and are working together in the spade suit. The loser count of 6 losers suggests an invite bid.

However, the critical feature here is the 2C bid to your left. Whenever your left hand opponent bids your suit, the hand usually plays worse than the point count and the loser count are suggesting. The loser count only looks at the first 3 cards and assumes any further cards are now winners. But when a 5 card suit is bid over you, potentially you have further losers. And it can be difficult to ruff them away in dummy because the right hand opponent is likely to overruff you.

This hand occurred in an ordinary club session. In pairs/duplicate scoring, you should usually err on the low side when considering invite bids/games/slams. This guide along with the 2C bid meant South had a clear pass.