

Dealer: S
Vul: All

♠ J8
♥ AK765
♦ AQ
♣ QJ96

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

What should South bid?

Bidding 3 Where You Have a Suit Under the Opposition Bidder

Dealer: S

Vul: All

<p>♠ Q9 ♥ J109 ♦ K106 ♣ AK854</p>	<p>♠ A76 ♥ Q432 ♦ 953 ♣ 732</p>	<p>♠ J8 ♥ AK765 ♦ AQ ♣ QJ96</p>	<p>♠ K105432 ♥ 8 ♦ J8742 ♣ 10</p>
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S	W	N	E
1H	2C	2H	P
?			

What should South bid?

Whenever the opponent to your left bids a suit in which you have honours and/or length, the hand usually doesn't play as well as the point count is suggesting. Your honours are more likely to be finessed or be captured by higher honours. If you have to ruff losers in the suit in dummy, you run the risk of being overruffed by your right hand opponent.

Conversely, if you have honours and/or length in a suit over the opposition bidder, the hand is likely to play better than the point count is suggesting. Your honours are more likely to score tricks and if you need to ruff the suit in dummy, you are in a position to overruff the opponent who is short in the suit.

This hand occurred in a GNOT heat at QCBC. I passed 2H! Three others out of the 22 who played the hand also did so. My opponents got CAK, club ruff, DK and should have got a spade as well to hold me to 8 tricks for +110.

My opponent at the other table bid my hand to 4H and went three off for -300.

My decision to pass the South hand was probably too timid (especially in a teams match). The best bid is 2NT. This says to partner that you are in the 16-18 invite range for an opener, but you need to protect stuff in clubs. Partner with a 6 count will pass. You have 7 tricks on top (5 hearts, SA, and DA) and if you get a 4th highest club lead it donates your 8th trick.

Let's change things around and place the club suit OVER the opponent:

Dealer: S

Vul: All

	♠ A76	
	♥ Q432	
	♦ 95	
	♣ QJ96	
♠ Q9		♠ K105432
♥ J109		♥ 8
♦ K106		♦ J8742
♣ AK854		♣ 10
	♠ J8	
	♥ AK765	
	♦ AQ3	
	♣ 732	

The defenders get CAK and ruff the third round of clubs with the H8. They will get the DK as well but the spade loser will go on the CQ, making 9 tricks. An extra trick due to the placement of the club suit.