

Dealer: W ▾
Vul: None ▾

North me

♠ K10876
♥ A6
♦ K8
♣ AQ102

West

♠ 5
♥ QJ754
♦ AJ63
♣ 854

East

♠ J942
♥ K93
♦ 1074
♣ KJ3

South

♠ AQ3
♥ 1082
♦ Q952
♣ 976

Bidding:

	W	N	E	S
P		<u>1S</u>	P	<u>2S</u>
P		<u>3C</u>	P	<u>4S</u>
all pass				

This hand on

Wednesday night gave me something to think about regarding “Back to Basics”. What I’m talking about here is Trial Bids.

So often I see beginners start a simple auction 1 Heart 2 Hearts, and the opener then starts bouncing their pencil on the table.

“Should I bid 4 Hearts? Should I bid 3 Hearts? Should I pass?”

It is extremely rare, make that **never**, that the opener bids another suit.

And yet that is what Trial bids should be. “Can you help with this suit?” In other words, “Do you have an honour in this suit”, or” Do you have shortage in this suit

so that I can ruff my losers?" And finally, "Do you have any extra trumps or distributions that might help me?"

This hand has minimum trump support, (only 3 cards,) poor distribution 3 3 4 3, and no help in the Trial suit, Clubs.

Still it was a bit unlucky, both Clubs were offside and the Spades didn't break.