

Now a brief look at sacrifice bids.

N	E	S	W
1S	2H	2S	4H
?			

AQ876
7
KQ87
K54

You have a perfectly respectable hand and would probably have been content to play in 2 or 3 Spades. The opponents have bullied their way to the four level however and if they are to be believed * seem to think they can make their game call.

Now if they can make 4Hrts our side will naturally score poorly. {Whether you are playing duplicate , rubber or chicago makes no difference -a game call is not going to be good for us if it makes }.

One thing to consider therefore is making the sacrifice bid of 4Sp.

If you bid 4Sp quickly ! the opponents may even believe that you think you will make 4sp BUT more likely is that the opponents will double you. Well how bad will that be ? True you are likely to go off but 1 off { or even 2 } is mathematically better than conceding game to the opponents and should be considered.

There will be hands that a sacrifice bid of 4Sp would be too much but if you feel that the three level at least would have been safe then going to the 4 level as a sacrifice is acceptable. In a nutshell { and this is hard to judge} -if you think that your sacrifice bid *might* make *or* go one or two off then it should be tried}.

As a general tip -the more distribution you have { 5-4 shapes or even 5-5s } the better your chances of escaping relatively unscathed. Also -the more touching Hons {QJxx or KQxx 's } as opposed to single honour suits { Kxxx or Q xxx } again the less likelihood of disaster befalling.

Suppose the opportunity for the sacrifice is at the five level.

N	E	S	W
1H	2S	3H	3S
4H	4Sp	?	

3
QJ987
QJ87
Kxx

Hmmm ... Well you could pass and see if partner will bid 5H but perhaps that's a bit craven. Will the opponents make 4Sp ? Quite possibly. Will we make 5H ? Doubtful. Will 5H be close ? YES. Bid 5 Hearts and prepare your apologies if it goes wrong.