

We have seen that if the opponents overbid us it may be in our interests to *take the push* and bid one more as a sacrifice. There are hands though that we anticipate that the opponents will be outbidding us and we try to head them off before it happens ! Known as *defensive bids* these calls raise partner with a *deliberate* overbids knowing full well that they are unlikely to make their contract. {You might wonder why anyone would deliberately want to go down in an uncontested contract but, as we shall see there are good reasons for these bids }.

N	E	S	W
3H	P	?	
		54	
		K876	
		QJ987	
		43	

Partner opens with a weak bid in Hearts and it should cross your mind that the opponents must be very strong. It *may* be that partner's preempt will silence everyone at the table and that you will be allowed to play a contract of 3Hrts... Hmmm possible but more likely is that West will come in over 3Hrts and the opponents will get to a contract of their own. Well one way to obstruct the opponents is to make the defensive raise of 4 Hearts. Now YOU know that 4Hrts won't make BUT the opponents don't !! Having heard your bid of 4Hrts the next player may decide that the 4 level is too high to enter the fray and may believe that their partner has no points and that you { the 4H bidder} is quite strong. The next player may simply decide to Pass. The point is that had you passed 3H the next player would have bid -when you bid 4H the next player may decide *because of your bid* to also Pass.

Lets see another similar auction and look at things this time from the non-openers view point.

N	E	S	W
3S	P	4S	?
			5
			AQ876
			KQ87
			KJ3

Is South pulling our leg ? ( in which case we ought to bid something , probably double) or is it our partner that is very weak ( in which case we should pass). Well if you know do tell me because I have no idea myself. The point is that South might be quite strong and expects 4Sp to make OR is just distributional and is defensively continuing the preempt. West doesn't know. Certainly the raise of a weak opening bid on minimum points but good trump support is something worth having up your sleeve.

{{ And if your opponents play weak two openers ? Well watch out as they may too be up to similar tricks. Whatever Souths 3H means it certainly is making life harder for West.

N	E	S	W
2H (weak)	P	3H	

