

We have been shut out of the bidding by an opponent's overcall. Of course partner has another bid and will take into account that we may have wanted to bid but couldn't. Opener is likely to have one of four types of hands:

e.g {1}	N	E	S	W
	1H	2D	P	P
	?			
	xx			
	AQxxxx			
	xx			
	AQx			

North should bid 2Hrts -it doesn't seem very risky and giving in to 2D is a bit weedy.

e.g {2}	N	E	S	W
	1H	2D	P	P
	?			
	xx			
	AQxxx			
	xx			
	AQxx			

This one is trickier -we feel it would be feeble to pass but bidding 3Cl seems high. Probably a bid of 2Hrt will work out ok .Perhaps we will get close to making, perhaps the opponents will bid 3D.You *could* pass but sometimes you must take chances.

e.g {3}	N	E	S	W
	1H	2D	P	P
	?			
	xxx			
	AQxxx			
	x			
	AQxx			

Again opener should bid -- 2Hrts is ok but there is a better bid. Double for takeout will allow partner to choose Spades , Hearts or Clubs.

Up to now it has been reasonable to believe S was silent because they were shoved out of the auction by the overcall.

If N themselves is extra strong however it is likely that S passed because they were genuinely weak .Something like this.

e.g {4}	N	E	S	W
	1H	2D	P	P
	?			
	Kxx		Qxxxx	
	AQxx		xxx	
	Kxx		xx	
	Axx		Qxx	

This time opener is quite strong { and had intended to rebid in NTs}.

Well now bidding NTs is probably **NOT** a good idea.You won't make it for one thing. It is right to bid though. The best bid is again Double { for takeout }.

