

Protective bidding -the whys and wherefores

You will have heard about protective bidding but may still be a little uncertain ...
Look at this auction :

N	E	S	W
1C	P	P	1S
			QJ765
			765
			AJ3
			43

You may feel that West's 1S bid was a bit on the light side in terms of points; that the hand is not particularly distributional and for that matter the Spade suit is average at best.

Of course you are right about your evaluation of the hand and yet West was correct to call on this hand *in last seat*.

NB if the auction had been like this

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1H	?
			QJ765
			765
			AJ3
			43

...then West would *not* have bid 1Sp and would of course have passed.

The main difference between the two auctions is that in the first case if West had passed then North { the opponent} would have been left to play a contract at the one level -by bidding 1Sp { even on a poorish hand} then North , if they are to play the hand will have to bid again , and probably at a higher level.

Simply , West should not let an opponent play at the one level in a suit if they can possibly help it.

West is said to be in the protective seat and that any bid they make *may* have been made on less than the usual requirements.

Eight points and a five card suit is ample enough to overcall at the one level.

Why is it ok to bid with 8 points in the last seat ?

Looking at partner's hand here may make things clearer.

N	E	S	W	
1C	P	P	1S	West bids 1Sp because there is a very
	A43		QJ765	good chance that East has a fair amount
	QJ2		765	of points but has been shut out of the
	KQ2		AJ3	bidding. { What could West have bid ?}
	J762		43	East bids 1Sp to protect partner.

