

# Matchpoint Bidding Tips – Part 2



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# Time for a Joke

A young boy enters a barber shop, and the barber whispers to a customer, “This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch, I’ll prove it to you.”

The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks him, “Which do you want, son?”

The boy takes the quarters and leaves.

“What did I tell you?” said the barber. “That kid never learns!”

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store licking a cone. “Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?”

The boy replied, “Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!”

# Matchpoint Tip #3

## When to Compete to the 3-Level

The opponents have bid to the 3-level over your 2-level partscore. When do you also compete to the 3-level?

1) Will you make your 3-level partscore?

Consider your fit length and HCPs.

Consider their fit length and HCPs.

2) Will they make their 3-level partscore?

3) Which gives you the optimal outcome: pass, bid, double?

Making

North	East	South	West
1H	1S	2H	2S
Pass	Pass	???	

	Vul/Vul	South	N/S	E/W
a)	♠J52 ♥J54 ♦542 ♣KQ42		2H	2S
b)	♠7 ♥Q542 ♦8732 ♣KQ73		3H	3S
c)	♠J75 ♥J943 ♦3 ♣KQ432		3H	2S
d)	♠A52 ♥Q54 ♦32 ♣K942		3H	2S

The Rule of Total Tricks says that if the total HCPs are divided 20-20, each side will take as many tricks as they have total trumps.

# Another Joke

I went to the cinema last night. The man sat in front of me had his dog with him. The dog seemed really engrossed in the film. When the film ended I said to the owner "this might sound weird but your dog seemed to really enjoy that". "Yes I was surprised too, he hated the book."

# Matchpoint Tip #4

## Playing Against the Field

When you've found yourself in an inferior contract, consider declaring differently from the norm.

LEAD: J♦

West  
 ♠ Q76  
 ♥ 854  
 ♦ J108  
 ♣ K875

North  
 ♠ K5  
 ♥ AQ2  
 ♦ AK72  
 ♣ J943

East  
 ♠ 842  
 ♥ 976  
 ♦ Q965  
 ♣ A106

South  
 ♠ AJ1093  
 ♥ KJ103  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ Q2

With a new partner, you've wound up in 4S rather than 3NT, like the rest of the field. How do you play it?

The answer: 3NT probably makes 4, so you must make 5S. Most declarers in 3NT will finesse East for the Q♠.

Take the A♦, come to your hand with a ♥, and finesse West for the Q♠. It's your only chance to salvage any matchpoints on this board.

# Playtime

