

## Andrew Robson answer to Roger Harris's hand.

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Roger Harris reports this amazing deal from a duplicate at the flourishing Stratford-upon-Avon Bridge Club.

Dealer West                  Neither Vul

	♠ -		
	♥ Q J 10 9 4		
	♦ A K 7 6		
	♣ 9 4 3 2		
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 4	N	♠ A 9 7 6 3 2	
♥ K	W	♥ 5	
♦ 10 9 8 5	S	♦ Q 4 2	
♣ 8	E	♣ Q 7 5	
	♠ -		
	♥ A 8 7 6 3 2		
	♦ J 3		
	♣ A K J 10 6		

Table One

S	W	N	E
	1♠(1)	Pass(2)	4♠
	Pass(3)	Pass	Pass

(1) It's One or Three. Many would open Three (weak with seven decent spades) but the hand does satisfy the Rule of 20.

(2) Anyone for a light take-out double?

(3) A 4NT bid here shows a two-suiter, and is the indicated call. Partner will initially assume the minors but if you remove 5♦ to 5♥, clearly you have hearts and clubs.

North led out ace-king and a third diamond, hoping to give South a ruff (South had played jack-three). He's still waiting. Declarer won dummy's queen, crossed to a spade, "No spades, partner", "No spades, partner" coming from both sides of the table. He then cashed the fourth diamonds, shedding dummy's singleton heart, and conceded just one club. Ten tricks made and E-W +420.

Table Two

S	W	N	E
	3♠(1)	Dbl(2)	6♠(3)
	7♥(4)	Pass	Pass(5)

(1) Without a single defensive trick, this looks about right. It's close to a 4♠ opener.

(2) I like it. When you have the perfect shape — as North does here for the take-out double — being sub-standard in high cards should not put you off.

(3) It's the sound principle of making only one supporting bid in a competitive auction — to your limit. You can then let the opponents make their own arrangements.

(4) All in. This looks right as 7♥ will make opposite many sub-minimum doubles eg ♠xx, ♥Kxxxx, ♦Axx, ♣Qxx — and clearly partner has more.

(5) East has made his bed. He must now hope one of his minor-suit queens will win.

Declarer had to guess two suits to make 7♥. West's opening lead of the king of spades gave him an unhelpful ruff-and-discard but after shedding a club from dummy and ruffing in hand, he got hearts right (a priori 52-48 per cent) by laying down the ace.

Declarer now cashed the ace of clubs — there was no point in wasting time if the queen fell singleton; it did not. Now delaying the club guess for a while, declarer crossed to the ace-king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. He returned to a heart and ruffed a fourth diamond. With West showing up with four diamonds, it was likely he was his actual 7♠1♥4♦1♣ shape. Declarer crossed to a heart, led a club to the jack and was soon chalking up his grand slam. N-S +1,510.

The par result is 7♠ doubled minus four: N-S +800.