

You  
♠Q95  
♥AKJ74  
♦  
♣AQJ52

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1D	2S	3H	P
3N	P	?	

This hand actually occurred at the table, and I thought it worthy of a bridge puzzle discussion.

You pick up the hand shown above and are thrilled, particularly when partner opens, even if it is in your void. But those darn opponents keep jamming your auctions, as RHO preempts with 2S. You figure you might as well show your nice hearts, and partner bids 3N. What do you do now, if anything, and why?

Send your answers to me: [billpuzzles@bridgesights.com](mailto:billpuzzles@bridgesights.com)

## The Answer

There is no right answer, which is why preempts are so effective. They rob you of valuable bidding room to be more scientific.

It is virtually certain that 3N can make, which is why pass would be a good conservative choice. However, if partner has anything in either hearts or clubs, slam is a good possibility. Partner did bid 3N. Therefore, it is very unlikely that you have 2 spade losers. Also, partner is likely to have something in clubs. If I was in an optimistic mood, I would consider slam.

However, the problem is how to bid it. Partner might consider 4C Gerber (which is the main reason why I do not play Gerber, except in a very limited and well defined set of auctions). Partner would likely consider 4N as ace asking, with hearts as trump, but that really doesn't do you much good. So, I would just take the bull by the horns and bid 6C, giving partner a choice of slams.

At the table, had you chosen to bid slam, your optimism would be rewarded, as it often is. Partner's hand is the following:

Partner

♠A7

♥93

♦AK874

♣10763

Six clubs is a very good contract, and makes.

By the way, the expert holding your hand was really optimistic and bid 6N. It unfortunately did not make, although it did have plays.