

You  
♠2  
♥J108764  
♦QJ32  
♣108

| <u>Partner</u> | <u>RHO</u> | <u>You</u> | <u>LHO</u> |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1H             | 4S         | ?          |            |

This puzzle involves two decisions by you.

First, you are vulnerable and the opponents are not. What do you bid over 4S and why?

Second, assuming the opponents end up in 5S, what is your best opening lead and why?

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

## The Answer

Regarding the first question, what do you bid over 4S, that is a difficult decision. With at least an 11 card fit, I would bid 5H. It is very likely that the opponents are making 4 spades. Despite the vulnerability, I am not worried that much about being doubled and going down. I am more concerned about partner bidding 6 because he is expecting more values from me.

Regarding the best opening lead against 5S. You might lead a heart, hoping that you have exactly an 11 card fit and each opponent has exactly one heart. However, at the table, I chose the Q of diamonds. My thinking was that it is unlikely we have a heart trick, so I wanted to establish diamond tricks before declarer had a chance to set up clubs and pitch his diamond losers.

Here is the entire hand:

### Partner

♠ 106  
♥ AKQ52  
♦ K108  
♣ Q93

### LHO

♠ A53  
♥ 93  
♦ 764  
♣ AJ762

### RHO

♠ KQJ9874  
♥  
♦ A95  
♣ K54

### You

♠ 2  
♥ J108764  
♦ QJ32  
♣ 108

It turns out a diamond lead is the only lead that beats the contract, as the defense can then take 2 diamonds and a club before declarer has a chance to pitch diamonds on dummy's clubs.

As for the 5H bid, it turns out 5 hearts is down 2, which is slightly worse than the opponents making 4 spades (minus 500 as opposed to minus 420, or minus 480 on a non-diamond lead). However, it is very difficult for either opponent to double you, given their heart shortness and favorable vulnerability.