

East

♠52  
♥AK1062  
♦Q86532  
♣

South

♠A1074  
♥975  
♦J10  
♣AKJ3

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1S	2S	4S	5H
5S	?	?	

This was one of the most interesting hands I have ever encountered at the bridge table, and actually occurred on BBO. I present it not so much as a puzzle, but just a curiosity.

North/South are vulnerable, East/West are not. The bidding proceeds as shown.

What do you bid as East?

As South, what do you bid if East passes? What do you bid if East bids 6H?

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

## The Answer

Here is the entire deal:

### North

♠KQJ9863

♥8

♦A

♣Q742

### West

♠

♥QJ43

♦K974

♣109865

### East

♠52

♥AK1062

♦Q86532

♣

### South

♠A1074

♥975

♦J10

♣AKJ3

As East, I would think 6H is a good sacrifice, but might be afraid to bid it for fear of pushing them into 6S. If they bid 6S, is 7H a good sacrifice?

As South, I would pass if East passes. And if East bids 6H, I would probably double, figuring that I was going to pass 5S anyway, so we might as well take our sure plus.

I was indicating what I would most likely do at the table. As you can see, my analysis is woefully inadequate on this hand.

North/South can make 6S, unless East/West find the dummy double defense of having East underlead the AK of hearts, and West giving East a club ruff. If that had actually happened at the table, I would have strongly suspected East/West of cheating by consulting with each other.

Note that East/West make 6H, on only 15 HCP.

At the table, East bid 6H and South doubled (who can blame South?).

The "par" result (that is the best result for both sides) is 7H doubled down 1. I am assuming that East/West would not beat 6S, since that requires what is known as "double dummy" defense.