42. Not consulting via a Trial Bid

If you have bid and supported a suit, the first bid of a new suit asks for help in that suit.

Take South's hand on our featured deal. After opening 1♠ and hearing partner raise to 2♠, you can see that the success or failure of the spade game will depend largely on partner's holding in your long, weak diamonds. Rather than simply jumping to 4♠, bid 3♠.

Partner will bid 4 with a useful diamond holding and sign off in 3 with a poor holding. For

example ...

North (b)
↑ 10942
♥ K72
♦ 742
♣ KJ2

Holding (a), a decent diamond holding with two bolstering pictures, North will jump to 4 , an easy make facing our South.

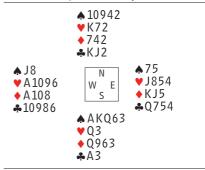
Holding (b), however, with three small diamonds, the very worst holding, North will hurriedly sign of in 3.

What Happened

South's bludgeoning approach resulted in a 4 contract being reached — in five seconds flat. Declarer tried dummy's *J on West's *10 lead (a free finesse). East in turn covered with *Q and declarer won *A. He cashed AK, drawing trumps and led *Q.

West won ♥A and led ♣9. Winning dummy's ♣K, it was time to play for the diamond minimiracle, East holding both ◆AK. However, when he led to (◆5 and) ◆Q, West won ◆A. He had no way to avoid losing ◆KJ to East and

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither



What Happened S W N E 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass 4♠(1) end Pass Pass

(1) South's lack of sophistication was to cost him. Sure, he has a nice hand — but that person across the table is on your side. Why not enlist their co-operation in the game venture?

Contract: 4♠, Opening Lead: ♣10

W	hat Should	Have Happened	
S	W	N	Ε
1 ♠	Pass	2 🖍	Pass
3 ♦ (1)	Pass	3 ♠ (2)	end

(1) "I'm not sure whether or not we should play in 4♠. My main concern is diamonds, in which I am long and weak. Can you help me there?"

(2) "I'm afraid not." Three diamond rags — yuck.

Contract: 3♠, Opening Lead: ♣10

that was one down. The 4 a game had been unmakeable.

What Should Have Happened
The play would proceed along identical lines. The difference —
3 makes.

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