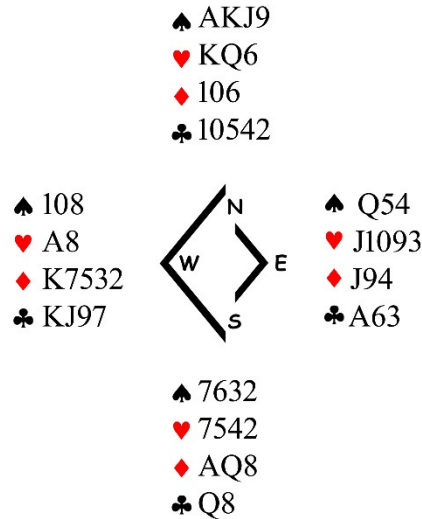


# 286. Nuisance Bids

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E	S	W	N
			1 ♣
P	1 ♥	2 ♦	Dbl
P	2 ♥	All Pass	

--North South Vulnerable--

Pre-empts affect the accuracy of the bidding no matter how good the player thinks he is. One does not necessarily need to make a jump in a long suit to preempt the auction. A One-Spade overcall of One Club and a Two-Club overcall of One-Diamond both have a pre-emptive effect of taking away the one-level. Kit Woolsey calls these nuisance bids.

The nuisance becomes less of a nuisance the more one opponent knows about his partner's hand. The partner of a One-No-Trump-opener knows a lot about where the contract should go and an opponent's overcall is not as much a nuisance as when partner's strength is not so defined.

Sometimes opponents' overcalls are not a nuisance. They might allow partner to pass and show his hand that way. In this example from Bridge Base Online, the opponent made a ridiculous overcall, but could not be punished and caused my partner and I to miss our Spade fit.

### **The Bidding:**

North opens *One Club* and South responds *One Heart*. West overcalls *Two Diamonds* with a suit with one honour and no intermediates cards. North doubles because he and his partner are playing support doubles. A double by opener shows three-card Heart support and a bid of *Two Hearts* shows four-card Heart support.

Had West passed as he should have, North bids *One Spade* over partner's Heart, and they find the Spade fit.

### **The play:**

*Two Hearts* is an impossible contract. Declarer must lead up to his Hearts in dummy twice. He needs to ruff a Diamond in dummy at the expense of a trump trick. Furthermore, Clubs ruffs have to be in the long hand trump holding which is so poor that it is better suited for long hand ruffs after all.

### **The result:**

*Two Spades* makes while partner miraculously went down only one in *Two Hearts*. Partner did not play trump and used Spades as two entries to ruff Clubs. A Bid of *Two Diamonds* worked really well for the opponents, but it could have easily backfired if North and South penalized the bid. Then it would have deservedly been a sure bottom result for West.