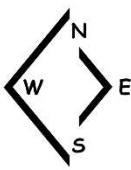


# 308. Bergen Raises in Competition

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	♠ 32		
	♥ A765		
	♦ 1087		
	♣ KQJ10		
♠ AJ1085		♠ Q96	
♥ 842		♥ 3	
♦ A3		♦ Q6542	
♣ 765		♣ A432	
	♠ K74		
	♥ KQJ109		
	♦ KJ9		
	♣ 98		
E	S	W	N
	1 ♥	1 ♠	3 ♦
P	3 ♥	All Pass	

--East West Vulnerable--

Bergen Raises are on in competition because nothing is given up. Besides, one never wants to be at the three-level in a double misfit situation. So if one has a misfit with partner's major, one would not want to bid Three Clubs or Three Diamonds naturally. Therefore, one gives up nothing to use Bergen in Competition.

Weaker players, not realizing a singleton in partner's suit is an argument for being on defense, think they have only one loser, however, it will be difficult developing tricks.

Furthermore, weaker players do not cringe when a partner preempts the opener who could have a big hand and the pre-empt causes him difficulties not the opponents who have no desire to enter the bidding. Weak jump shifts are only used

at the two-level and must be weak, zero to four points.

### **The bidding:**

In the last column, we saw that a Three Club response shows a constructive raise and four card support. In this column, a Three Diamond response is needed to show a limit raise. South having the flattest hand with a five-card suit declines the invite. Typically, 14 points is enough to accept an invite, but an ace-less hand could be trouble in the play.

### **The Play:**

West does not lead a Spade because South could easily have the Queen or King. Suspecting Spades is a unidirectional suit needing to be played from partner's hand, West leads a trump. Leading clubs would be bad, and a diamond lead is not much better.

Declarer will lose two Spades, one Diamond and one Club for +140.