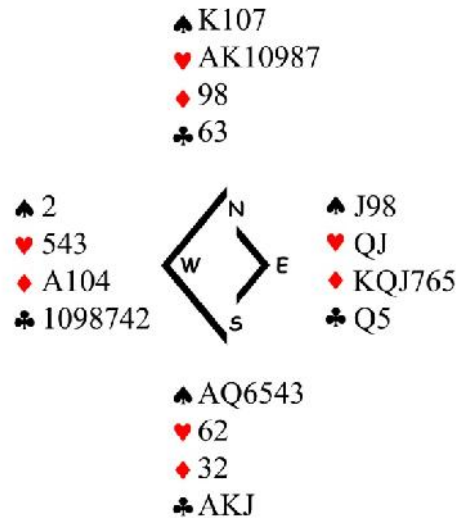


# 133. Major Limit Raise Revisited

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W	N	E	S
		P!	1 ♠
P	2 ♥	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
All Pass			

--Both Vulnerable--

## The bidding:

East starts the bidding with a pass. He has 12 high card points, but he has six wasted points. He does not control the spade suit and he hardly wants to give South an easy light overcall by opening one diamond.

## Wasted points:

Examples of wasted points are the king, queen or jack singleton, the queen or jack doubleton and the jack third. If a player has the queen and jack doubleton, the player who has the ace and king effectively get three more points because they fall under the ace and king. Whenever a side has wasted points, the opponent's hands are more valuable than they counted. So if East opens, South may overcall with less than an opening hand. Then he may later discover that he

makes more tricks than expected. If the opponent passed with wasted values, South may never get a bid in.

Here South does have a full opener of 14 points and opens the bidding after East's pass. North has ten to twelve points and three card support. He has enough for a limit raise but he should bid two hearts instead telling his partner he has a suit worth mentioning. He then shows spade support at the three level and partner goes to game opposite North's invitational (10-12) hand.

#### **The Lead:**

West has no obvious good lead. The ace is not supported by the king so it is out. A singleton trump is never good on the opening lead. A suit with three small cards in a suit bid by the opponents is probably the worst lead. A lead of the 10 of clubs may just finesse partner out of a higher honour but since it is a long suit, it is the best lead.

#### **The play:**

South wins the opening lead, draws trump and pitches all the losers on a heart suit that sets up once the queen and jack fall. Declarer makes four spades plus three for +710.

#### **Had East opened one diamond:**

South will know where almost all of the outstanding points are. He will be able to take a club finesse for a pitch. A good player will never cash the ace in a suit bid by partner when he has three or more in the suit and the right hand opponent could have an honour. This certainly applies to a club bid which is not lead-directive and a diamond bid which is mildly lead-directive. A major bid shows five cards and is more lead-directive than a minor which could be three or four cards. I still am not leading the ace of diamonds.

#### **Notes:**

-When one opponent has opened the bidding, the opponents need 24 points (not the normal 25 or 26) for a major or notrump game because they know where all the points are.

-North and South have 24 points, but because East has six wasted points in suits controlled by the opponents, North and South have 30 effective points.

-All the bridge columns may be viewed at <http://watsongallery.ca>.