

Bid 4 Spades Over 4 Hearts

By Marty Bergen

Principle 1

Be very eager to bid 4 spades over 4 hearts, including doing so before the opponents get there.

♠ Q J T 8 5 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ A 8 6 4 ♣ 5
W N E S
4 ♥ ?

Bid 4 ♠. A 4-level vulnerable overcall with 7 HCP? Yes! Burying your head in the sand by passing out of fear can be just as costly as making a risky bid.

♠ T 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ ___ ♦ J T 6 ♣ K 8 5 3
W N E S
1 ♦ 4 ♥ ?

Bid 4 ♠. I've seen better suits, but no one ever won anything by defending contracts without any trump.

Principle 2

Once partner shows a 5-card major, if you have 4-card support and a singleton, bid game.

♠ Q 9 8 3 ♥ 7 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ K T 8 6 3
W N E S
1 ♠ 2 ♥ ?

Bid 4 ♠. With this hand, the opponents will NOT play in 4 ♥.

About Marty Bergen

*Marty came to fame as a national bridge champion and author of **Points Schmoints!** and many more books. The title illustrates his humorous and easy-to-remember approach. He thinks of himself primarily as a teacher and has taught for more than 40 years.*