

vulnerable.

This hand was a mystery for most Wests:

♠ 3
♥ AK109432
♦ 853
♣ 105

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
-	1♠	2♦	2♠
?			

West's bid? Only one bid comes to my mind. Think tricks, give East five strong diamonds then West needs little luck to win 10 tricks if hearts are trumps, $7♥+3♦ = 10$ tricks. And East is likely to have some strength outside of diamonds for their 2♦ bid. Bid 4♥. West must bid 4♥ now.

At the club not one West jumped to 4♥ over 2♠. Some Wests passed! Were these West's still counting points? Not tricks? Some Wests bid 3♥ allowing North to bid 3♠, thereafter no West was allowed to declare 4♥. A big opportunity missed by our club Wests.

♠ 3		♠ 8752									
♥ AK109432	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♥ Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♦ 853		♦ AQJ109									
♣ 105		♣ K87									

West declares 4♥, North leads ♠A then ♠K that West ruffs. The ♥2 to dummy's ♥Q, ruff ♠7 allows West to draw trumps with ♥A and ♥K. The ♦3 finessing ♦Q, unluckily loses to ♦K. NS now need to cash ♣A to hold West to 10 tricks. A touch of luck, but 4♥ bid and made are the opportunities you, the "winning bridge player", need to create then take.

If NS bid 4♠ over 4♥, East doubles. North needs to play well to avoid being defeated by two tricks. If West jumps to 4♥ over 2♠, as recommended, it's most difficult for North to push onto 4♠ and West is likely to win the contract in 4♥.

Summary:

Hands with long suits have to the potential to win many tricks. Use partner's bidding to count how many tricks you may win with just a little luck. Then do it, bid what you think you may make. Jump to 4♥. No creeping.