

### Choose the right contract

**When you have a choice of two trump suits, prefer to play in the trump suit of the weaker hand and have the stronger hand as dummy.**

In auctions where partners seem to be “fighting” about the trump suit, the stronger hand should usually give way. The strong hand will almost always be more useful with side tricks to the weak hand than vice versa. The strong hand produces the high card tricks, the weak hand the trump winners. Often you will find that the weak hand produces no tricks if the hand is played in the trump suit of the strong hand.

West	East
♠ A Q 7 6 5 4	♠
♥ 3	♥ Q J 10 9 6 5
♦ Q 10	♦ 9 8 6 4 2
♣ K Q 9 2	♣ A 5

West	East
1 ♠	1NT
2 ♣	2 ♥

? What action should west take?

Seeing both hands it is not too tough to pass, but at the table it is not that easy and tempting to rebid 2 ♠. West should pass. West should figure that East has at least 6 hearts\* so spades could be a worse suit than hearts.

\*When responder first bids 1NT then follows with a change of suit it must be at least a 6 card suit.

If spades are trumps the east hand is worth one trick. If hearts are trumps, the east hand is worth at least 5 tricks (4 hearts and the club ace) East should make 2 hearts easily with one spade, three clubs and four hearts whereas 2 spades would be a disaster.