

Hand of the Month

December 2004

	North		
	♠ 432		
	♥ J983		
	♦ AKT9		
	♣ K2		
West	N	E	East
♠ Q	<div style="position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">W</div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 5px; right: 5px;">E</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 5px; left: 5px;">S</div>		♠ AKJT95
♥ K764			♥ 5
♦ J54			♦ Q876
♣ T9876			♣ 54
	South		
	♠ 876		
	♥ AQT2		
	♦ 32		
	♣ AQJ3		

Both Vulnerable			
W	N	E	S
P	1♦	2♠	1♣
P	x	P	3♥
All pass			
Opening lead: ♠Q			

North was faced with that age old problem of which suit to respond to partner's 1♣ opening when holding four hearts and four diamonds. Should he respond 1♦ or 1♥? This time he chose to bid 1♦ (a bid we agree with). Next came the defensive "attack". East jumped to 2♠ - preemptive. South was "bidless" at this point. He had nothing to contribute since he could not go to 3♥ with a complete minimum opposite a partner who might have a complete minimum (six HCP) and worse, no fit. Realizing all this, South passed. When the auction got back around to North, he doubled (not for penalties). North's double was "card-showing" (10+ points), intending to indicate to his partner that he wanted to bid again but had no direction (translation: he had a relatively balanced hand). If North had an unbalanced hand (two suits, the bid suit longer than the second one), he would have bid his second suit. In response to this double, South bid his second suit (hearts). North's decision to pass 3♥ was based on two key elements of this hand: first, South had a minimum since he passed 2♠; second, North had a very bad spade holding...three small. This North-South pair plays modern common sense bridge which the author likes to call BernieBridge.

