

Bidding Precisely
With the Match Point Precision Club System of Bridge Bidding
 by O. K. Johnson

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ K	
	♥ A742	
	♦ AKJT9	
	♣ KQ9	
West		East
♠ Q653		♠ AJ
♥ J93		♥ QT85
♦ 85		♦ 43
♣ 8643		♣ JT752
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ T98742	
	♥ K6	
	♦ Q762	
	♣ A	

	<u>W</u> <u>N</u> <u>E</u> <u>S</u>	
Bidding:	P – 1♣ – P – 1♠	
	P – 2♦ – P – 2♠	
	P – 3♣ – P – 4♦	
	P – 4NT – P – 5♣	
	P – 6♦ – P – P	
	P	
	Dealer: W	
	NS Vulnerable	
	Opening lead: J♣	

Explanation of the Bidding

North opened a Match Point Precision 1♣ promising at least 16 high card points (HCP). This is an artificial bid that is forcing to partner. South's 1♠ bid promises at least 5 spades and at least 8 HCP (this is normally forcing to game).

North's 2♦ bid tells partner that opener has at least 19+ HCP, five diamonds and is an asking bid that requests partner to tell about both her controls and her support for diamonds.¹ South's 2♠ bid tells partner she has bad controls (<4) and good support for diamonds.

¹ [Note that controls are based on aces = 2 controls and kings = 1 control. Good controls = 4+ and bad controls <4. Good support shows at least three cards with queen or better or at least four non-honor cards in the asking suit.] The response to this asking bid is in steps. Step one = bad controls and bad support, step two = bad controls and good support, step three = good controls and bad support, and step four (the final step) = good controls and good support. The various asking bids used after a 1♣ opening will be explained in a future article in the Match Point Precision series [found at www.USABridge.Com].

North's 3♣ bid is a suit asking bid that asks partner about her holding in clubs.² South bid 4♦ (5 steps) to show that she has both first and second round control.

North's 4NT bid is Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC) 1430 asking for "controls" where aces and the king of trumps each = 1 control. South's 5♣ bid shows only one control (this is the ace of clubs that was shown when South bid 4♦).

North's 6♦ bid places the final contract.

Analysis

Once north found that south had good diamond support but poor controls, he investigated the club suit and found the good news. After south's 4♦ bid, north should have inquired about south's heart suit by bidding 4♥ (like the previous 3♣ bid, this would have also been a suit asking bid). South would have responded with 5♣ (third step) showing second round control in hearts (either the king and at least one other heart or a singleton heart). After this bid, north would have could bid 6♦ without fear of losing a heart trick in addition to the spade trick.

Results

As can be seen, 6♦ is easy to make against any lead. North was lucky that south did not have four small hearts (5-4-3-1 distribution) as it would have been almost impossible to make the hand if that were the case.

This hand was played in a recent club game, and the Match Point Precision players were the only pair playing in slam earning them a top score on the hand. All other pairs were in either 3NT or an interesting 4♠ contract.

Do you have a bridge hand where you used Match Point Precision to reach your final contract and want to show-off your results? Or, do you have a hand that you would like to know how it should be bid using the Match Point Precision bidding system?

If so, send an email to admin@usabridge.com – include the cards held by each person, the actual bidding, where the hand was played, and the results.

We will ask O. K. Johnson to comment on it in a future *Bidding Precisely* article. Also, if you (and your partner) would like to receive credit, please tells us so in your email – otherwise, your name(s) will be withheld.

2 The response to this suit asking bid is in steps. The first step shows no better than 4th round control (at least three small cards in the suit). The second step shows 3rd round control (either the queen and at least two other cards or a doubleton). The third step shows 2nd round control (either the king and at least one other card or a singleton). The fourth step shows 1st round control (either the ace or a void). And, the fifth step shows both 1st and 2nd round control (either the ace and king or ace singleton).