

Answers to Fourth Suit Forcing on page 38

1 You are East.

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♣	?

What is your next bid with Hands A to F?

Hand A	Hand B
♠ Q 9 4 3 2	♠ Q 9 4 3 2
♥ 8 7 5	♥ A Q 5
♦ K 7	♦ 8 7
♣ K 6 2	♣ K 6 2

Hand C	Hand D
♠ Q 9 4 3 2	♠ Q 9 4 3 2
♥ 8 7 5	♥ 8 7 5
♦ A 8	♦ A 8
♣ A J 4	♣ A K 4

Hand E	Hand F
♠ K Q 10 8 6 5	♠ K Q 10 8 6 5
♥ 9 7 3	♥ 9 7 3
♦ A 8	♦ A 8
♣ Q 2	♣ A 2

Partner probably has 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs (though he could possibly be 1-4-4-4 shape). If you use the fourth suit to ask him for more information, your hand should satisfy two criteria.

First, you should have at least the values for 2NT. Second, you should not have a bid that describes your hand accurately. It is always better, if possible, to tell partner what you have and rely on him to bid sensibly rather than ask him what he has.

Hand A: 2♦.

False preference. You are not strong enough to bid fourth suit forcing.

Hand B: 2NT.

11 points and at least one stopper in the unbid suit, hearts.

Hand C: 2♥*.

Fourth suit forcing. You are hoping partner can show spade support or maybe

bid no-trumps with a heart stopper. Note that your spades are far too poor to bid them a second time.

Hand D: 2♥*.

As with Hand C. This time, you are strong enough to insist on game even if partner shows a minimum opening bid.

Hand E: 3♠.

Showing a good 6-card suit and highly encouraging, but not absolutely forcing. With a minimum opening and singleton spade, partner will pass.

Hand F: 2♥*.

Fourth suit forcing. This time you are too strong for an immediate 3♠. Start with 2♥ and bid 3♠ next time, game forcing. This is an example of using the fourth suit to create a forcing auction.

2 You are West.

West	East
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦*
?	

What is your next bid with Hands G to P?

Hand G	Hand H
♠ 3	♠ 3
♥ A Q 8 6 5 2	♥ A Q J 6 5 2
♦ 6 5	♦ 6 5
♣ K Q 9 8	♣ A K J 2

Hand J	Hand K
♠ 3	♠ 3
♥ K J 7 6 5	♥ K J 7 6 5
♦ A J 9	♦ A J 9
♣ K 8 6 5	♣ A K 6 5

Hand L	Hand M
♠ 9 4 2	♠ J 4 2
♥ A Q 8 5 4	♥ A Q 8 5 4
♦ 8	♦ 8
♣ K Q 8 7	♣ A K Q 6

Hand N	Hand P
♠ 6	♠ K 8
♥ A Q 8 5 4	♥ A Q 8 5 4
♦ J 2	♦ 8 7
♣ K J 7 5 3	♣ K J 7 5

2♦ is fourth suit forcing, asking you to describe your hand further. Partner has at least the values for 2NT.

Remember that if you bid at the two level, partner can pass so if you have extra values, you must do more.

Hand G: 2♥.

Minimum. Not forcing.

Hand H: 3♥.

Game forcing with six hearts.

Hand J: 2NT.

Minimum with at least one stopper in the unbid suit, diamonds. Not forcing. Don't worry about the singleton spade. Partner bid them.

Hand K:

3NT. Too strong for 2NT with at least one stopper in the unbid suit, diamonds.

Hand L: 2♠.

Minimum with probably three spades. You might have raised 1♠ to 2♠ rather than rebid 2♣.

Hand M: 3♠.

Game forcing with three spades.

Hand N: Difficult.

3♣, showing your fifth club, would describe your shape perfectly, but 3♣ is game forcing, not really justified with 11 points when partner might have only the values for 2NT. Bid 2♥ denying a diamond stop and 3-card spade support.

Hand P: Again difficult.

If you would regularly raise 1♠ to 2♠ on 3-card support you could bid 2♠ now, otherwise bid 2♥ showing a minimum.

Hands N and P show that while fourth suit forcing is a brilliant concept, there are hands where you must improvise. ▶

3 You are West. What is your next bid with Hands Q to T?

West	East
1♠	2♦
2♥	3♣*
?	

Hand Q	Hand R
♠ KQ987	♠ KQ976
♥ AQ62	♥ AQ632
♦ 82	♦ 8
♣ Q3	♣ Q3

Hand S	Hand T
♠ KQ976	♠ KQ976
♥ A1062	♥ A1062
♦ 9	♦ AJ2
♣ KJ6	♣ 6

Partner's 3♣ is fourth suit forcing, asking you to clarify your hand further. So far, you have shown five spades and four hearts. The auction is at the three level so it is game forcing.

Hand Q: 3♠.

No extra shape or stopper. Partner would like you to have six spades, but you have to bid something!

Hand R: 3♥.

Show your fifth heart.

Hand S: 3NT.

You have a club stopper.

Hand T: 3♦.

You have no extra shape in the majors, but you do have three diamonds. Knowing you have the majors and diamond support should allow partner to place you with a singleton club and lets him place the final contract. Perhaps he might even go for a diamond slam. ■

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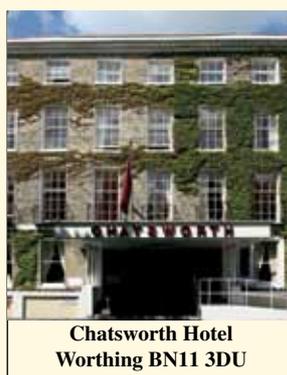
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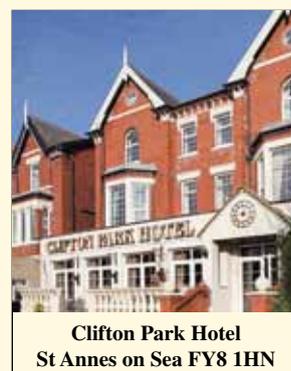


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Full Board – No Single Supplement

Booking Form on page 8.

Please note there are no seminars, set hands or prizes at these events.