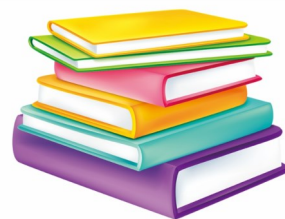


# Library Corner



## *Planning the Defense: The Next Level*

by Barbara Seagram & David Bird (2020)

Both Seagram and Bird are well-known authors of bridge-related books.

The back cover notes that Bird "is the most prolific bridge author of all time," a pretty impressive statement. Bird has written over 138 books on the game of bridge, and he has won eight (8) American Bridge Teacher's Association Book of the Year awards. While not having written that many books on her own, Seagram has written many in her own right. The most popular of her titles is 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know. Each hand that is presented concludes with a brief summary of the plan required to defeat the contract presented. Among the topics presented are hold-up plays, preventing declarer's entries to the dummy, putting declarer to an early guess, and many more. The chapters conclude with quizzes that address the points made in the text of each chapter. Answers are presented, which the reader should read after she/he has time to take the quizzes. After the quizzes at the end of each chapter, the authors summarize the points the readers should remember from each particular chapter. It might be helpful for the more novice player to make a list of these points for review until they become established parts of his/her game.



## ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

December, 2023



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

## A message from the president...

Can't get enough bridge? Well, to ease your pain, we've added two games in December: Sunday, December 17, Royal STAC afternoon game where you have a chance to win gold points and Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve game during the afternoon. Plus, don't forget the Fairyland Club's Christmas Celebration on Thursday, December 14, and the Annual Holiday Game at the Bridge Center on Saturday, December 16 at which we will also elect new board members for 2024.



Thanks to all who turned out for the latest mentor/mentee game November 17. We had 14 tables, and 50 cars were in the parking lot! It was necessary to move a few cars around to make sure people could get out after the game. Related to this, as you know, we are sealing and re-stripping the parking lot, so WATCH OUT. The lines WILL be different to accommodate more cars. The side parking will especially be a different experience. Hope you will like the updated lot and lines!!

Richard Spangler



## Blast from Christmas Past

Our blast from the past this month is from the 2012 Christmas party at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Pictured from left to right are Cal "Santa" Brassfield and Bob and Alice Greenleaf.



## Who'd a Thunk It?

From the photo, if you had guessed that genteel and ladylike Barbara Anderson and Joyce Boatwright were well disguised "Motorcycle Mamas," you'd be wrong. These two delightful ladies were out on a weekend with mentors Larry and Myra Reneau to take in the beautiful fall foliage along the Cherohala Skyway (look right). When they stopped at a rest area, Barbara and Joyce just couldn't resist posing next to the "hogs."



## How to Be a Better Partner

Watch your pronouns. Instead of saying "I" or "me," try saying "we" or "us." One of the best things about bridge is that it's a partnership game. That means for good or for bad, you're in it together.





## November Special Game



Typically autumn Sundays involve delicious BBQ and football with ruthless opponents and cutthroat competition. On Sunday, November 12, bridge substituted for football, but there was no shortage of ruthless opponents nor cutthroat competition. Mary Duffy hosted a wonderful afternoon, and everyone there had a great time. Congratulations to the following 3 pairs who topped the victory list.

First Place

Earl Rothberger/Susan Rothberger

Second Place

Dan Chandler/Joe Viola

Third Place

Iris Abelson/Sue Shramko

## Hats off to...

This month, it's "hats off" to Cheryl Whitfield for exceeding all expectations in decorating the Chattanooga Bridge Center for each of our special games. We keep adding more, and Cheryl keeps rising to the occasion even when it means more work for her and those who support her. She pulls box after box out of her attic and lugs them to the Bridge Center to work her magic. It's fun to see her creativity and imagination at work as she adds a touch of enchantment to each festivity. We can't wait to see what she has in store for our holiday party. We thank you, Cheryl, for always making our special games so special.



## PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



NEED  
HELP?

Do masterpoints and conventions wake you in the middle of the night *robbing you of vital sleep*? Are you spending too much time weighing the pros and cons of bidding 1NT versus 2H? Is exhaustion your new best friend because you have mentally replayed Board 6 so many times that you're blue in the face? Sounds like you've been bit by the bridge bug, and there's only one quick cure. The CBC recommends more face-to-face bridge games, and our Partnership Committee can help. All you need to do is email Partnership Committee Chair **Jan Alexander** ([janalexander@epbfi.com](mailto:janalexander@epbfi.com)) and let her know that you're interested in playing more often. Who knows? You just might find your next favorite partner.

# The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

Welcome one and all to the Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club's annual holiday party on Thursday, December 14th at 10:00am. Come join us for a delicious meal, a great game and a fun and festive time. If you are a FDBC member, by now you should have received a formal invitation. We will be having our annual meeting and elections while we dine. Please confirm your reservation no later than December 7th by contacting Dan Chandler at [danlchan@hotmail.com](mailto:danlchan@hotmail.com) or calling him at 423-400-6999. Everyone is guaranteed to have a good time!

To join us for our weekly games on Thursdays at the Mountain City Club, contact Susie Crouch at [susancrouch54@gmail.com](mailto:susancrouch54@gmail.com) to reserve your spot at the table. We meet at 10:15am and the game begins at 10:30am. A buffet lunch is served around noon and the game will continue until approximately 2:30pm.

May the upcoming holidays bring you joy and good tidings. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!



## Online Tuesday Limited Game



A marvel of technology is that from the comfort of our homes, we can enjoy a great game of bridge while earning ACBL masterpoints in the process. If you have fewer than 400 masterpoints, you're eligible to play in our limited Tuesday evening online game. All you need to do is sign on to BBO ([bridgebase.com](http://bridgebase.com)) at 6:45 P.M. The game starts at 7:00 P.M. and is usually over by 9:00 P.M., so you can still get a good night's sleep. Don't have a partner? Put your name in at the online BBO partnership desk. The game is open to anyone with 399 points or less, so there's a good chance you'll find someone to play with.

## Come One, Come All



It's time to pull that crazy reindeer sweater out of storage and find Aunt Bessie's recipe for sweet potato casserole. This year the Chattanooga Bridge Club's annual meeting and holiday party will be celebrated on Saturday, December 16. Cheryl Whitfield, David Vine and Sandy Cervantes are hosts and invite all Unit 206 players to the festivities. Delicious food, beautiful decorations and electrifying bridge are guaranteed. The ham main course is provided by the club, and players are asked to bring sides and desserts. Lunch will begin at 11:30. We will conduct a short business meeting and elections while players are partaking and hope to start the game around noon. Don't miss this fun event.

# Myra's Box

Hi all,



Bridge to me, is such an amazing game! However, it has not been possible without the kindness of my mentors. Sadly, some are no longer with us such as Grandma Betty. But many others still are. I would like to thank Larry, Jody, Joan, Joe V, John F, Joe R and countless others who have helped me improve my game. The continuous learning aspect of bridge makes it just the best! So during this thanksgiving season, I would again just like to thank my mentors. I also encourage others to mentor as well.

*Myra*

## Introducing Walter Miller

The CBC welcomed their newest and youngest Junior Master, Walter Miller, on Friday, November 24th. Walter was thrilled to be partnered with Myra Reneau in the club game. To top it off, Walter and Myra came in first!

Walter recently moved to the area from northwest Alabama. He has played bridge previously at the Birmingham and Huntsville Bridge Clubs with his Aunt Frances King Quick, who has supported and mentored him through his bridge journey. When he is not doing his schoolwork, Walter enjoys reading the latest bridge bulletin and learning new conventions.

Walter and Myra are pictured to the right. We wish Walter every success as he progresses through his bridge journey and hope to see him more often at the club.



*Wishing one and all the  
happiest of holidays.*



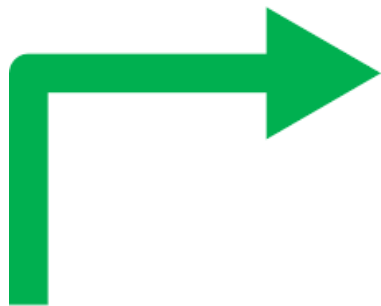
## Hot Off the Press

### New Life Master

ACBL's  
newest Life  
Master is  
**Margie Moses**  
of Chattanooga  
TN. Moses,  
who needed  
4 gold points  
to advance to  
the new rank, earned more than 6  
playing in Tuesday's Gold Rush Pairs  
with partner Susie Crouch, also of  
Chattanooga.







# Arnie's Angle

By Arnie Meagher

## The Complex History of Christmas in the US

Regardless of how Christmas came about, it has become in America, despite its shocking commercialization, one of the most uplifting, jovial, and restorative celebrations of togetherness for families, friends, and communities.

**The Origin of Christmas.** The Bible does not give us a birthday for Jesus and the birth of Jesus was not celebrated by Christians for the first 300+ years of Christianity. In the early Christian church the most significant holidays were the Epiphany on January 6th, commemorating the arrival of the Magi, and Easter commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. December 25 was first identified as Jesus' birthday by historian Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 who said that the annunciation of Jesus' conception took place on March 25, which after 9 months in his mother's womb resulted in a December 25 birth. The first recorded celebration of Christmas took place in 334 A.D. in the reign of Roman Emperor Constantine and was subsequently declared an official church holiday by Pope Julius I in 350 A.D. The date was not accepted by Christians in the Eastern Empire, who favored January 6, and Christmas, December 25, did not become a major Christian festival until the 9th century.

**Christmas in the Middle Ages.** We now jump several centuries to England, in the Middle Ages, where Christmas was a time when the poor went to the houses of the rich to demand their best food and drink and if not well received would terrorize the rich with mischief. The Christmas festival also became a raucous affair lasting many days. In the 17th century, when Oliver Cromwell and his puritan forces came to control England they reacted to the over indulgence of Christmas festivities and viewed the Christmas traditions of sharing gifts and decorating trees as linked to paganism and vowed to rid the country of all such decadence. As part of their effort to achieve this they cancelled the celebration of Christmas. This lasted from 1644 to 1660, when Charles II became King and restored Christmas festivities.

**Christmas in America.** When English separatists came to America in 1620, being Puritans, they did not celebrate Christmas. Christmas festivities were outlawed in Boston and anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. Following upon the War of Independence from Britain, most Americans considered Christmas a British custom and it fell out of style. It was not until the 19th century that Christmas was reinvented.

**Cultural Change.** In 1819, Washington Irving began writing a series of stories in the New York Times about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor, featuring a squire who invited peasants into his home for the Christian holiday, demonstrating that Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing people, rich and poor, together. About the same time in England, Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*, with the message of goodwill towards all people - a tale that was well received in America. These cultural events triggered a renewal of Christmas as a family holiday borrowing Christmas traditions from many cultures, decorating trees, giving gifts, sending cards, and Santa Claus. In 1822, Clement Clark Moore, Episcopal Minister and Professor of Greek and Oriental Literature at Columbia College (now Columbia University), wrote: " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas", depicting Santa Claus as a jolly old man who flies from house to house on a sled driven by reindeer to deliver toys to Children. Inspired by Moore's poem, cartoonist Thomas Nash created the image of Santa as a jolly old man dressed in red from head to foot with a white beard and a sack of toys, creating the image of OLD Saint Nick that we know to this day.

**Federal Holiday.** In 1870, the US Government declared Christmas a federal holiday putting the capstone to America's re-invention of Christmas, changing it from the British experience of a raucous, carnival-like holiday into a family-celebrated festival of peace and goodwill to all peoples.

**"Happy Christmas to All and to All a Good Night"**, the last line from the poem by Clement Clark Moore.



# MANNERS ARE IMPORTANT!



## Respect the time of others

- ♦ We recommend that you arrive at least 15 minutes before starting time.
- ♦ Watch the timer and be considerate of others; move when the round is called. Don't move early or late; move only after the round is called.
- ♦ Have a completed Convention Card (both you and your partner).
- ♦ Make your opening lead or table the dummy before you enter the contract in your private score sheets or the BridgeMates. Remember the opening lead is to be led face down to allow for questions!
- ♦ Bid and play in a timely manner.
- ♦ When moving to a new table, make sure you are at the right table with the right opponents.
- ♦ Also check to see that Bridgemates and Place Card agree.

## How would you fill in the blank? "To me bridge \_\_\_\_."

### The spotlight this month shines on Earl Rothberger:

For me bridge is a mental exercise that forces me to think and study and then re-think - surely good for my aging brain! If this were the primary reason I play bridge, I might be tempted to keep my pajamas on and stay home with my computer. Rather, for me the powerful and delightful appeal of bridge in Chattanooga is the interaction I enjoy with so many interesting people—from old and dear friends to a surprising number of recent arrivals.

Susan and I are particularly fond of the mentor/mentee game. We have played in every one of these and invariably the mentees are anxious to learn and are very appreciative of the opportunity.



## Bridge Tip for December

If the vulnerability is wrong for a preempt at the three level, open a weak two bid.

**Marty Bergen**

# December Special Games

How lucky can you get? Santa is bringing lots of goodies to CBC players. Make sure to mark your calendar now so you can avoid any conflicts and be able to take advantage of three weekend games in December.



**Saturday, December 16**—This is our annual meeting and holiday party. Since this pairs game is also during Royal STaC week, there's a chance to win gold, red or silver points without having to travel to a tournament. For more information, check out the article in this newsletter. Lunch will be at 11:30 A.M.

**Sunday, December 17**—Royal STaC week ends this date, and to take advantage of the colorful point awards, Unit 206 decided to hold an additional pairs game on Sunday. No food is provided by the club (no doubt there'll be leftovers from the holiday party), but you can always bring a dish to share. Gathering time is 12:30 P.M. with the game starting promptly at 1:00 P.M.



**Sunday, December 31**—Hot dog! We have a New Year's Eve special pairs game. Please bring an appetizer to share. Food is at 12:30 P.M. The game is scheduled for 1:00 P.M.. That gives you plenty of time to make it home so you can celebrate the new year with family and friends and avoid the NYE dyed-in-the-wool parties.

## Nooga East Bridge Club

Every Monday at 12:30 P.M., there's a bridge game at Christ United Methodist Church located at 8645 East Brainerd Road across from Hurricane Creek Shopping Center. You are asked to arrive no later than 12:15 P.M. so the game can begin promptly. For those of you in Cleveland or North Georgia, we are just a hop, skip and a jump away. We are a very welcoming, fun group and are always looking for new players of all levels. Interested? Just email [noogabridgeeast@gmail.com](mailto:noogabridgeeast@gmail.com) to make a reservation. Need help finding a partner or have a question? You can text or call **Sue Riddle (423.509.3583)** or **Sharon Lewis (423.240.5360)**. We are happy to help, although we do hope for some extra time to help you find a partner. And, after you have asked for some help, if you are lucky enough to find someone to play with on your own, please let us know so we can sit back and enjoy our weekend.

Watch your email for food and fun days. If you are not receiving our emails, please let us know by emailing us at the above address. We have lots of special games planned for the rest of the year—remember special games mean extra points. Hope to see you there.





# Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Oh, phooey! This month there's only one online Mentor/Mentee game since the fourth Monday falls on December 25. No need to fret too much though because we still have a game on December 11. **Anne Donnovin** (aaddonnovin@bellsouth.net) heads up this activity, so if you are interested in playing, please let her know early so she can match up mentors with mentees. If you are a regular player, Anne has you on her list. However, she asks that if you are unable to play, please contact her on a timely basis so she will not include you in the month's assignments. She sends out a reminder a week prior to matching mentors with mentees. Mentees are asked to contact their mentors to develop an online convention card. The game starts promptly at 7:00 P.M., so please sign on to BBO (bridgebase.com) by 6:45 P.M.

This is the perfect opportunity for more seasoned players to provide on-the-spot, useful, constructive suggestions to help our newer players improve their game. Everyone has a chance to come out on top, so it just might be you earning those masterpoints.



## Bridge Etiquette



If there is any hesitation in the bidding or the play, the partner of the player who hesitated must be very careful not to draw any inference from this and must bid or play as he or she would have done if there had been no hesitation. This is particularly the case if a player hesitates during the bidding and then passes.

## Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game



Wow! Can you believe it? We had a full fourteen tables at our November Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game. This game is exciting and fun, and it's impossible to predict who will come out on top. Always on the third Friday of the month, December's game is on the fifteen which falls during STaC week. That means extra points will be awarded, and they could have colors! There's a sign-up sheet at the club, but if you are unable to do so in person, text or call **Sandy Cervantes** at **423.315.1953** if you are interested in playing. We know there might be last minute complications or conflicts, so if you run into a problem, please let Sandy know as soon as possible so she can try to find a replacement for you.

Congratulations to the following pairs who scored big at the November game:

### North/South

### East/West

<b>First</b>	MJ Levine/Myra Tatum
<b>Second</b>	Sue Shramko/Jim Lafavor
<b>Third</b>	Shayna Scott/Carol Grisanti

Sam Cox/Marianne Gilbert
Earl Rothberger/Anne Donnovin
Pat Whitaker/Carole Rowland

# dates to Remember



November 23-  
December 3  
Thursday-Sunday

2023 Fall NABC  
Marriott Marquis  
Atlanta, GA

December 11  
Monday

Online Mentor/Mentee Game  
7:00 P.M. BBO

December 14  
Thursday

FDBC Annual Meeting & Holiday Party  
10:30 A.M. Mountain City Club

December 16  
Saturday

CBC Annual Meeting & Holiday Party  
11:30 Lunch & Meeting/12:00 Pairs Game

December 17  
Sunday

Special Pairs Game Royal STaC  
12:30 P.M. Food, 1:00 P.M. Game

December 27-  
January 2  
Wednesday-Tuesday

Myrtle Beach New Year's Regional  
Embassy Suites  
Kingston Plantation, South Carolina

December 31  
Sunday

CBC New Year's Eve Pairs Game  
12:30 P.M. Food/1:00 P.M. Game

January 11-13  
Thursday-Saturday

Nate Silverstein Sectional  
Lightman Bridge Center  
Memphis, TN

January 17-20  
Wednesday-Saturday

Non-Life Master Regional  
Winterfest 2024 Sectional  
Pigeon Forge, TN

January 19-20  
Friday-Saturday

Montgomery Bridge Club NLM Sectional  
Montgomery Duplicate Bridge Club  
Montgomery, AL

January 26-28  
Friday-Sunday

Hofstadter/Ogburn Start the Year Sectional  
Henry Tift Bridge Center  
Macon, GA



## Please Stay in the Lines

If you've been to the Chattanooga Bridge Center recently, you've seen our new parking lot. It's been resealed and new lines have been painted to accommodate more vehicles. We hope this modification will limit the need to double park. Also, we continue to have a narrow walkway in front between the building and the parking area. Please do not pull your car up beyond the line to permit comfortable passage.

# One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

## Some Thoughts on Sacrificing



In last month's Newsletter column I discussed the strategy involved in competing for a part score. This month let's look at sacrificing, that is, making a bid in a competitive auction that you expect will not make because the penalty for going down will be less than the score the opponents will get for making their contract.

Sacrifice bids are usually made at or above the level of game. When we sacrifice we should expect to be doubled by the opponents, and so the comparative vulnerability of both sides is an important consideration. If we are vulnerable and opponents are not, their game score plus game bonus will be in the range of 400-420 or perhaps 450. If they set us two tricks doubled that is minus 500, so we can only afford to go down one trick to make the sacrifice worthwhile.

Before looking at a couple specific examples, let's consider the type of situation where a sacrifice might come into play. The opponents have found a fit, identified their trump suit, and bid to a game. Our side should not consider a sacrifice unless we have also found a fit in another suit and we believe that our hands are distributional enough that we can limit our losing tricks so that the penalty we incur is less than the opponents can get for making their game.

A typical situation is where an opponent opens, we overcall, the Responder shows a good hand with support for Opener's suit, our partner shows support for our suit and a willingness to compete, and eventually the opponents end up in a game contract. Do we outbid them or let them have the auction?

The key to making this decision is to be able to evaluate our side's combined assets based on what we see in our own hand and what we hear from the other three players in the auction. For example, if the opponents are bidding spades and you have a singleton or void, you know you have only one loser. By the same token, if you have four low spades you know partner has at most one loser in that suit.

You also have to be able to evaluate your hand (and by inference, your partner's) in terms of its relative strength in defending against the opponents' game, as opposed to its relative strength offensive strength in playing in the suit you share with partner as trump. If you and partner have a nine- or ten-card fit in your suit, that gives you more playing strength on offense. Four little cards in the opponents' trump suit suggests that you might be able to hold your losers to one trick if on offense, but it has no value on defense, whereas a holding like QJx in the opponents' suit has defensive value but on offense it is a wasted value because you can't double count a third round winner with a third round ruff in partner's hand.

At the bridge table, when you consider whether to sacrifice you have to go through the mental calculation of how many tricks you expect to lose, how many tricks you can afford to lose, and also what you think your chances are of setting the opponents if you don't sacrifice. It's a crummy feeling to go down one trick in 5 Clubs doubled when the opponents could manage only 9 tricks if they had played 4 Spades. But that's what sacrificing is all about. And, as a wise man once said (see last month's column), "if you are never going down in a sacrifice and getting a bottom score, it is because you are not aggressive enough in sacrificing."

Let's look at a couple of hands to try to convey the sense of how to evaluate whether to sacrifice or defend. Of course I can't possibly cover this topic with only a couple of examples, but I hope to put you on the right road and let you take it from there.

Example #1 – Left hand opponent deals and opens 1 Spade, partner overcalls 2 Diamonds, right hand opponent makes a cue bid of 3 Diamonds (which shows at least limit raise values in spades and is obviously forcing one round). This is your hand:

♠ 8652

♥ J

♦ K10973

♣ QJ6



# One Last Thing...

## *Continued*

You have 7 high card points, including a relatively worthless jack of hearts. You have four spades but only 8-high. Partner has bid diamonds and you have five-card support with two honors and great spot cards. And you have two honors in an unbid suit that might be useful to partner.

Now let's evaluate for offense (in diamonds) or defense (against spades). Offensively if the opponents have an 8-card spade fit you will lose only one trick in that suit. If Responder has four spades you won't lose any tricks in the suit if you can ruff those losers in partner's hand. You have a singleton heart, so at most one loser there. You have five diamonds, so at least a ten-card fit in your trump suit. And you have two club honors, so at most two losers there, and if partner has the ace or king you might only lose one club trick.

Count your tricks on offense – likely five diamonds plus three ruffs in partner's hand or, alternatively five diamonds in partner's hand and two or three ruffs of heart losers in your hand. So that comes to eight tricks in the diamond suit plus a couple in clubs, and you've got enough to compete on offense, although you could have three or four fast losers.

What about defending against 4 Spades? You can't count on much. You'll get at most one diamond trick, maybe a heart if partner leads the ace and another trick if he gives you a ruff, but he can't have much more than that in this auction. So you're not likely to set 4 Spades. This looks like a good hand for a sacrifice, whether vulnerable or not.

Over your right hand opponent's cue bid of 3 Diamonds, what should you bid? You can try 4 Diamonds, in the dual hope that you can take 10 tricks but not 11 and the opponents will let you play there. Or you can jump to 5 Diamonds and take the pressure off partner to have to decide what to do. But when you compete to the 4-level in an auction that pushes the opponents to a game that they might not otherwise have bid (here Opener could have signed off in 3 Spades if you had passed), you should be prepared either to double or to sacrifice.

Example #2 – Left hand opponent opens 1 Spade, partner bids 2 Diamonds, Responder makes a cue bid of 3 Diamonds showing limit raise or better in spades, and this is your hand:

♠ Q76  
♥ KJ9  
♦ J10974  
♣ QJ

There is some similarity between this hand and the first example: five card support for partner's diamond suit. But note that this hand is stronger, with ten high card points. Your queen of spades could put the declarer to a guess in a trump finesse and might take a trick on defense, but not on offense. Your heart holding will be worth a trick if your right hand opponent has either the ace or queen of hearts. Partner might have a diamond trick, but don't count on a second trick in that suit. And if partner has anything in clubs you could score a trick in that suit.

Looking at this hand compared to the first one, it is much more oriented toward defense than offense. Given the auction, Opener probably has at least 12 high card points and Responder should have a good 10, which means that partner might have over-called with as little as AKxxxx in diamonds and nothing more. A sacrifice at 5 Diamonds, even with an 11-card fit in trumps, could result in losing five or six tricks, whereas you have an outside chance of setting 4 Spades.

More importantly, if you compete to 4 Diamonds you risk being doubled and going down two or three tricks for a negative score when all the opponents could do is to make 3 Spades.

Bottom line: When deciding whether to sacrifice, you have to look beyond the temptation created by having a great fit with partner's suit and be able to evaluate your hand for offense or defense based on all the information available to you. That includes the thirteen cards you see, but also what you hear (or see) from the auction.