

# PRIBA bidding

<b>North</b>					
Kxx		<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
QJxx		1C	P	1S	P
Ax		2S	P	4C	P
QJxx		4N	P	5S	P
		P	P		
<b>South</b>		North Dealer			
AQJ10x		All Vul.			
xx					
Kxx					
AKx					

In a recent team game, this board resulted in a big swing. At Table One, standard bidding was used; at Table Two, PRIBA. We will explore Table Two's bidding, a 2-over-1 variant called PRIBA. PRIBA can also be played by non-2-over-1 partnerships.

PRIBA is an acronym for **P**artner's **R**ebids are **I**ncomprehensible, **B**id **A**ccordingly.

North opened with a 1 club and South responded 1 spade, showing 4 or more spades. North rebid 2 spades showing 3 to 4 card support. So far, a normal bidding sequence but now South initiates the PRIBA sequence (either partner may do it) by bidding 4 clubs.

## 4 Clubs by South

North-South employ a 2N inquiry (sometimes called Q&Q) to determine if North holds 3 trump (3C and 3D) or 4 trump (3H and 3S). Having this tool available is important ... South chose not to use it and instead, initiated PRIBA ... an interesting choice ... is this an example of that elusive, nebulous quality called "judgment" that separates the "Pros" from the rest of us? You be the judge.

South, worried about his heart doubleton, wants to find out if partner had the Ace of hearts. With no agreement for starting control-showing bids, South decides to improvise ... this type of recklessness is crucial to PRIBA. If you make a strange enough bid, partner will be hard-pressed to guess what you mean ... thus, groundwork is laid for PRIBA. South *wanted* his 4 club bid to show the Ace of clubs, and demand a control-showing bid from North. In bridge as in life, "*wanting*" is sometimes not enough.

North, perplexed by partner's 4 club bid, began assembling a list of suspects: a splinter bid, club support, 1430 RKC Gerber ... after some thought, North decided it must be Minorwood for clubs.

Bingo!

The PRIBA sequence was offered and accepted. North and South have **different understandings about the same bid (4C)** ... an absolute necessity! The resultant chaos

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in reasoning and bidding is the theoretical basis for the PRIBA system ... chaos corrects ... often landing you in the correct contract. The accuracy and precision of PRIBA will now be demonstrated.

## 4 Notrump by North

North responded to South's 4C Minorwood ace-asking inquiry with 4N showing two keycards and the queen of clubs (Trump).

South found it interesting that North would bypass control showing bids to launch a 1430 RKC ace-asking with spades as trump.

Yes, North thinks trump is clubs while South thinks it is spades. Confusion is an essential ingredient to PRIBA.

## 5 Spades by South

South's 5 spade bid tells north he has two key cards and the queen of trump (Spades) ... the correct 1430 RKC response.

If you are using PRIBA, you don't necessarily have to make the correct response to RKC as mistakes often add to the chaos and improves the chances of arriving at the right contract.

North found the 5 spade bid odd ... a strange and unusual continuation of the Minorwood sequence. North passed!

*You often hear that if you don't know what partner's bid means, bid again. It is just the opposite in the PRIBA system ... if you don't know what partner's bid means, PASS ... you have reached the correct contract.*

At Table Two, the contract is five spades, making 6 for a plus 680. At Table One, North-South employed standard techniques, bid 6 spades down one. The plus 780 translates into a 13 IMP swing for the PRIBA team.

You, too, can get these same results using PRIBA.

The beauty of PRIBA is its' simplicity ... nothing to memorize. Just be creative and bid anything that seems logical to you. If your partner assumes it is *something else*, PRIBA is initiated and a good contract is a few bids away. Good Luck!