

## Six Five Hands

By Sue Jackson

Because we prefer to play major suit contracts rather than minor suit contracts, some players will distort their hand shape and bid a 5 card major ahead of a 6 card minor. This is usually NOT a good idea.

Here is a hand from a recent morning game:

KQ975  
4  
AKJ1092  
2

You should definitely open 1D, then bid spades at your next turn. The auction might go something like this:

1D    1H  
1S    1N  
2S    3D  
P

Even if partner's 1<sup>st</sup> bid is 2C, you bid and rebid spades. You do not have the high cards for a reverse, but you have the playing strength.

When you open a minor and then bid a major twice, you show at least 6-5. If partner is 2-2 in spades and diamonds, you want to play in diamonds.

An exception to this guideline would be if the major were quite strong and the minor quite weak, for example, AKQ109 of spades and Jxxxx of diamonds. Then, just treat the diamond suit as if it were a 5 card suit.