

<b>Board 8</b>		♠ 87		
<b>Dealer W</b>		♥ 10743		
<b>None Vul</b>		♦ AJ3		
	♠ AJ653	♣ KQ32	♠ KQ4	
	♥ Q8		♥ KJ	
	♦ K8762		♦ 94	
	♣ 7		♣ AJ10985	
		♠ 1092		
		♥ A9652		
		♦ Q105		
		♣ 64		
				NT
				♠
				♥
				♦
				♣
				N
				S
				E
				W
Par -420 4♠= EW				5 3 7 4 5
				5 3 7 4 5
				7 10 4 9 8
				7 10 4 9 8

The spotlight is on West. What did they chose to open? The votes were:

1♠            8  
 Pass            5  
 2♠            2

The 'Rule of 20" is well quoted bridge dogma.

It says: - Open at the one level if points plus the length of the 2 longest suits is 20.  
 On this hand there are 10 points. 2 suits of 5 cards brings the total up to 20.

Of course not all 10 point hands are created equal.

On this occasion ♥ Q8 is a dubious value and we are lacking 10s and 9s

For example either of these two hands is better:

♠ AJ653   ♥ 98   ♦ KQ762   ♣ 7  
 ♠ AJ1053   ♥ Q8   ♦ K10962   ♣ 7

The first one just has the red Queen moved to diamonds. The rest is the same.  
 The second one now includes the 10 of spades and the 109 of diamonds.  
 Don't they both look at least 1 point stronger than the original hand?

They do, but that is because they are worth upgrading.

Today's hand is a relatively normal 10 count not worth upgrading or downgrading.

♠ Q7653   ♥ Q8   ♦ Q9762   ♣ A  
 ♠ K7653   ♥ AQ   ♦ J8632   ♣ 7

Those are hands worthy of being downgraded. Much worse than today's hand.

I wholly concur with the people who opened 1♠.

I sympathise with 2♠ if it was a downgrade because of poor intermediates.

I do not understand pass. There are 2 reasonable bids. Choose one or the other.