

16. The Joy of Six

By Ron Klinger

You are the dealer at favourable vulnerability. What is your plan of bidding with this hand?

♠ A87
♥ A8
♦ 106
♣ AK10863

The deal arose in the 2018 TBIB Swiss Teams:

Round 5: Board 19

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQJ	
	♥ K10975	
	♦ Q5	
	♣ QJ5	
West		East
♠ 10532		♠ 964
♥ 3		♥ QJ642
♦ AKJ974		♦ 832
♣ 74		♣ 92
	South	
	♠ A87	
	♥ A8	
	♦ 106	
	♣ AK10863	

A natural auction might well start 1♣ : (1♦) : 1♥ : (Pass), 3♣. North might then stopper ask with 3♦ or show a stopper with 3♣. In either case, with no diamond stopper and only two hearts, South figures to rebid 4♣ and North could then bid 5♣. It is harder for North-South if it starts 1♣ : (2♦) : 2♥. Now South's 3♣ does not show extra strength and South might bid 3♦, stopper ask instead. Reaching 5♣ now is trickier.

Datum: N-S +110. Results: 3NT x 17, made seven times; 5♣ x 9, all making; 6♣ x 3, all one light; 4♥ x 8, all failing. 4♣ –100 x 1.

You might wonder how a pair – and a very competent pair at that – reached 4♣ on the 3-3 fit. It came about because South chose a 1NT opening. Maybe the vulnerability was an influence, but with no benefit of having the opening lead come to South, there is no strong reason to choose 1NT.

West	North	East	South
	Pass		1NT
2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass
Pass	Dble ⁽³⁾	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

(1) Majors or minors or diamonds

(2) Pass or correct

(3) Takeout

(4) Five hearts

Given the 3♣ bid, South figured to have only three spades for the 3♣ rebid. At that point, North should have bid 4♣.

You are vulnerable against not. East deals and passes. What is your plan of bidding with:

♠ Q6
♥ J5
♦ AQ10954
♣ KQ3

If you choose a 1♦ opening and partner bids 1♥ or 1♠, do you rebid 2♦ or 3♦? You do have a 6-loser hand and bits and pieces in the majors even though they count two losers each. Here you could open 1NT despite the 6-card suit. A lead up to your hand in any of the four suits might be helpful. The deal also arose in the 2018 TBIB Swiss Teams:

Round 3: Board 25

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

North	
♠ AKJ4	
♥ K9	
♦ KJ6	
♣ A1086	
West	East
♠ 8752	♠ 1093
♥ A108732	♥ Q64
♦ 87	♦ 32
♣ 9	♣ J7542
South	
♠ Q6	
♥ J5	
♦ AQ10954	
♣ KQ3	

Datum: N-S 1160. Results: N 6NT x 8, all making; S 6NT x 3, two making (♥A lead x 2, at the other table, ♥7 lead: nine – queen – five, -500); 6♦ x 17, all making; S 4NT x 2, ♥7 lead: +720 and -300; S 7NT doubled -200 x 1; N 7♣ -300 x 1.

The heart position is the strong case for opening 1♦ rather than 1NT. The 7♣ contract was reached – again by a very competent pair – after South opened 1NT. North might have jumped straight to 6NT, but a mix-up in a complex auction led to the wrong minor and the wrong level. That could not happen after a 1♦ opening.

This came up in a bidding-practice session on Bridge Base Online:

West dealer : Both vulnerable

West	East
♠ AQ3	♠ 875
♥ K4	♥ A9632
♦ AKQ652	♦ 73
♣ QJ	♣ K65

The auction went 1♦ : 1♥, 3NT : Pass, no damage done. Many play this sequence as showing 0-1 heart. In that case West is too strong to open 1♦. You can choose a 2NT opening or 2♣ : 2♦, 2NT (23-24 balanced).

Tomorrow's Problems:

1. Pairs: West dealer : E-W vulnerable

North

♠ Q8632

♥ 84

♦ A92

♣ A72

East

♠ K

♥ A952

♦ 10843

♣ 9853

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1♠

Pass 3♠⁽¹⁾ Pass 4♠

Pass Pass Pass

(1) Maximum pass, support for spades

West leads the ♥Q. What should East play?

Suppose you have decided to win trick 1 with the ♥A and South follows with the ♥3. What would you play at trick 2?

2. Pairs: West dealer : Both vulnerable

North

♠ 84

♥ Q653

♦ J9

♣ AQ1074

East

♠ A952

♥ J

♦ 10843

♣ 9853

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1♥

Pass 3♠⁽¹⁾ Pass 4♥

Pass Pass Pass

(1) Fit-showing jump

North's fit-showing jump here shows a maximum pass, support for opener's major and a strong 5+ club suit (at least K-Q-high). West leads the ♠Q. Which spade should East play?

Suppose you have decided to win trick 1 with the ♠A and South follows with the ♠3. What would you play at trick 2?

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?