63. Differing views

By Ron Klinger

East dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3♠
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

- **▲** 10 **♥** A874
- KQJ8
- ▲ A1095

The deal arose in the 2015 World Teams quarter-finals. In the Bermuda Bowl (Open Teams), three Norths passed and five went on to 4♠. The full deal:

	North ♠ 10 ♥ A874	
	• KQJ8	
	♣ A1095	
West		East
♠ 642		♠ K3
♥ J6		♥ KQ1093
◆ A1063		♦ 972
♣ KQ64		♣ J87
	South	
	♠ AQJ9875	
	♥ 52	
	♦ 54	
	♣ 32	

The South hand, with six playing tricks, is virtually textbook for a $3 \pm$ opening. The North hand has four tricks for South. If South has the six tricks expected, $4 \pm$ will be a good spot most of the time. Of course, you need to know what sort of hand to expect from South's $3 \pm$ opening, whether it is textbook style or whether it is a 'joke' pre-empt. As the cards lay, with East having the $\pm K$ doubleton, declarer makes 11 tricks. USA1 / China / Sweden won 6 Imps vs England / USA2 / Bulgaria, while it was flat at $4 \pm +450$ in France vs Poland.

Venice Cup (World Women's Teams): 3♠ x 4; 4♠ x 4.

D'Orsi Bowl (World Seniors' Teams): 3♠ x 4; 4♠ x 4.

North dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
?			

What would you do as West with:

▲ 10864
♥ K8
♦ KJ8765
♣ 8

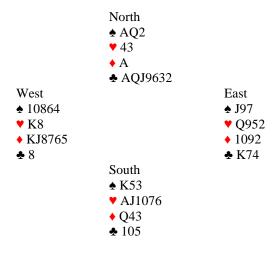
That West hand is underweight for a $2 \blacklozenge$ overcall by about a king or better. The excuse for bidding is the good shape (6-4 pattern), with shortage in the suits bid by the opponents. If you have bid $2 \blacklozenge$ and things go sour, the blame will be totally on you.

After you have made up your mind, this is how the auction went:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I am not selling the 2+ overcall, just reporting. What would you lead from that West hand against 3NT?

The conflict between 3NT and 5-minor arose on Board 40:



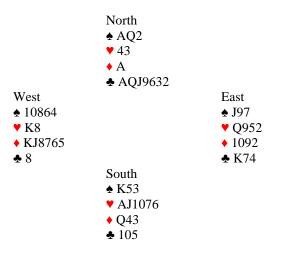
There is no defence to $5\clubsuit$, while only a diamond lead can defeat 3NT. Warne – Bergdahl (Sweden) began with a strong 1♣ opening and a 1NT response (8+ points, 5+ hearts). Danailov, West for Bulgaria, overcalled 2♦ and North-South then wended their way to 5♣ for +400.

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Mihov	Upmark	Stefanov
	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The 2 \diamond overcall is no thing of beauty, but it could help East find the lead if North is declarer in no-trumps. West led the \diamond 8, ace. Declarer played the \diamond A and the \diamond Q, hoping for the \diamond K with West and catering for a bare \diamond K with East. No luck. East won and return a diamond. The defence had six tricks, East-West +100, 11 Imps to Sweden.

In China vs USA2 both sides reached 3NT on uncontested auctions. Hurd (USA2) played it from North. With no input from West, East led a spade, North-South +460. Hu (China) played it from South and received the \uparrow 7 lead, ace. Rather than rely on the clubs, South tested the hearts first: \forall 3 – two – jack – king. West switched to the \blacklozenge 4, ace. A heart to the ten won and had hearts been 3-3, Hu would have had nine tricks. When the \forall A revealed the break, Hu crossed to the \clubsuit A and played the \bigstar Q, down three, East-West +150, 12 Imps to USA2.

Meckstroth – Rodwell (USA1) bid 1 \triangleq (strong) : 1 \triangleq (8+ points, 5+ hearts) : (3 \blacklozenge by West), 4 \triangleq : 5 \clubsuit , all pass, +400. The Hackett twins reached 3NT by North on an uncontested auction. Levin, East, showed he needed no help from partner. He led the \blacklozenge 10. North won and played \clubsuit A, \clubsuit Q. East won and continued with the \blacklozenge 9, East-West +100, 11 Imps to USA1.



With East-West silent, Volcker – Bessis (France) bid to $5 \pm$, +400. At the other table, Combescure came in with $2 \pm$ after $1 \pm$: Pass : $1 \checkmark$. It continued $3 \pm$: Pass : 3NT, all pass. West did not heed his own advice and led a spade, North-South +460, 2 Imps to Poland. With a potential source of tricks for declarer in the North hand, it looks more attractive to make an attacking lead in diamonds rather than a passive spade in the hope that declarer cannot amass nine tricks.

Venice Cup (World Women's Teams): 5♣ +400 x 2; 3NT: +460, +430, -50, -100, -150, 6♣ -50. D'Orsi Bowl (World Seniors' Teams): 5♣ +400; 3NT +460 x 3, -100; 4NT -150; 6♣ -50.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer : Nil vulnerable

North			
South ▲ QJ108654 ♥ 94 ♦ KJ ▲ 82			
West	North	East	South 3♠
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	22

West leads the 4. Plan the play. Suppose it goes 4: five – nine – jack. You cash the K, cross to the A and play the A: three - 4 - Q. What next?

How would you play $4 \bigstar$ on the lead of the $\bigstar 5$?

2. With neither side vulnerable, the auction starts Pass : 1 + : Pass : 2 +, back to you. What do you do now with

▲ 4
♥ A10854
◆ A107543
▲ 9

Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

I knew all this toilet paper hoarding would end in tears. My local supermarket has suppositories on special.