

63. Differing views

By Ron Klinger

East dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?	Pass	3♠

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♠ opening. The North hand has four tricks for South. If South has the six tricks expected, 4♠ 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♠ opening, whether it is textbook style or whether it is a 'joke' pre-empt. As the cards lay, with East having the ♠K doubleton, declarer makes 11 tricks. USA1 / China / Sweden won 6 Imps vs England / USA2 / Bulgaria, while it was flat at 4♠ +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♦ 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♦ 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:

	North	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ 43	
	♦ A	
	♣ AQJ9632	
West		East
♠ 10864		♠ J97
♥ K8		♥ Q952
♦ KJ8765		♦ 1092
♣ 8		♣ K74
	South	
	♠ K53	
	♥ AJ1076	
	♦ Q43	
	♣ 105	

There is no defence to 5♣, 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
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The 2♦ overcall is no thing of beauty, but it could help East find the lead if North is declarer in no-trumps. West led the ♦8, ace. Declarer played the ♣A and the ♣Q, hoping for the ♣K with West and catering for a bare ♣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 ♦7 lead, ace. Rather than rely on the clubs, South tested the hearts first: ♥3 – two – jack – king. West switched to the ♣4, ace. A heart to the ten won and had hearts been 3-3, Hu would have had nine tricks. When the ♥A revealed the break, Hu crossed to the ♣A and played the ♣Q, down three, East-West +150, 12 Imps to USA2.

Meckstroth – Rodwell (USA1) bid 1♣ (strong) : 1♠ (8+ points, 5+ hearts) : (3♦ by West), 4♣ : 5♣, 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 ♦10. North won and played ♣A, ♣Q. East won and continued with the ♦9, East-West +100, 11 Imps to USA1.

	North	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ 43	
	♦ A	
	♣ AQJ9632	
West		East
♠ 10864		♠ J97
♥ K8		♥ Q952
♦ KJ8765		♦ 1092
♣ 8		♣ K74
	South	
	♠ K53	
	♥ AJ1076	
	♦ Q43	
	♣ 105	

With East-West silent, Volcker – Bessis (France) bid to 5♣, +400. At the other table, Combescure came in with 2♦ after 1♣ : Pass : 1♥. It continued 3♣ : 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
♠ 3	♠ QJ108654
♥ K1032	♥ 94
♦ A865	♦ KJ
♣ AKJ4	♣ 82

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

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♠ on the lead of the ♣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.