

67. Missing

By Ron Klinger

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ J5
♥ 10753
♦ 753
♣ Q953

The deal comes from a BBO team's match.

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K987	
	♥ AQ982	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 1042	
West		East
♠ 106432		♠ J5
♥ K4		♥ 10753
♦ J		♦ 753
♣ AK876		♣ Q953
	South	
	♠ AQ	
	♥ J6	
	♦ AK1098642	
	♣ J	

Textbooks advocate responding to a suit opening with 6+ points. Most expert allow themselves the luxury of responding with 5 points (and an excuse) or 4 points (and a really good excuse), but 3 points? If you are prepared to risk ending in too high a contract, you might choose a 1NT response because of the vulnerability. If partner does not have a strong hand, North-South might have a game available.

From yesterday:

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AQ
♥ J6
♦ AK1098642
♣ J

At one table, South doubled, North bid 4♥, South 5♦, all pass. Declarer made 12 tricks, +620.

	North	
	♠ K987	
	♥ AQ982	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 1042	
West		East
♠ 106432		♠ J5
♥ K4		♥ 10753
♦ J		♦ 753
♣ AK876		♣ Q953
	South	
	♠ AQ	
	♥ J6	
	♦ AK1098642	
	♣ J	

What would you do as South with the same hand if the bidding had started:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	?

At the other table, the 1NT response was chosen and North-South did stop short of game when South bid 3♦, all pass. It is hard for South, to be sure, but South might have doubled 1NT. That is usually played for takeout. When North bids some number of hearts, South can then bid diamonds to show a strong hand and long diamonds.

West dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	?	

(1) Fourth-suit, forcing to game

(2) Inviting slam

What would you do as East with:

♠ 4
♥ 104
♦ AKJ9542
♣ A103

You are minimum for your fourth-suit game-forcing bid in terms of high-card strength but you have significant playing strength. You can take a conservative view and bid 5♦ or a bold approach with 6♦.

West dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J107	
	♥ Q765	
	♦ Q	
	♣ QJ642	
West		East
♠ AQ9653		♠ 4
♥ AKJ3		♥ 104
♦ 6		♦ AKJ9542
♣ K5		♣ A103
	South	
	♠ K82	
	♥ 982	
	♦ 10873	
	♣ 987	

6♦ is an excellent contract, better than a 70% chance. Almost all of the time it makes if trumps are 3-2 or if there is a singleton ♦Q or ♦10. On the actual layout, there is no problem making 12 tricks. Without a trump lead, East can ruff the third club in dummy. Even if South leads a diamond, the spade finesse will see you home sooner or later. East can also make 6NT via the spade finesse.

At one table, after an auction similar to the problem, East bid 5♦, all pass. Declarer made 12 tricks, +420.

At the other table, East jumped to 6♦. Well done, but it did not end there. West bid 6♠. East might have removed that to 6NT, but he chose to pass. 6♠ is a really poor contract, but it can be made on any lead: finesse the ♠Q, cash ♠A and play a third spade. You need spades 3-3 and the ♠K onside, an 18% chance, but it is there. North led the ♠7, East-West +980 and +11 Imps.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?		1NT ⁽¹⁾
(1) 15-17 points, might have a 5-card major			

What would you do as North with:

♠ 842
♥ KJ10
♦ KJ102
♣ KQ4

You have methods to ask whether partner has a 5-card major.

2. West dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?
(1) Weak two in hearts or in spades:			

What would you do as South with:

♠ K6
♥ A52
♦ AKJ2
♣ 8643

What if North had opened 2♠, weak two, and East passes?

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

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.