

70. Contract choices

By Ron Klinger

South dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
?			Pass

(1) Heart raise, limit or stronger

What would you do as West with:

♠ AJ10
♥ KJ976
♦ J62
♣ QJ

The deal comes from GAUTRET vs ZIMMERMANN, one of the semi-finals in the 2019 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams). The two semi-finals played different deals.

Bd. 13: South dealer : Both vulnerable

	North		
	♠ K96542		
	♥ 10		
	♦ K		
	♣ K10975		
West		East	
♠ AJ10		♠ 873	
♥ KJ976		♥ Q532	
♦ J62		♦ AQ	
♣ QJ		♣ A643	
	South		
	♠ Q		
	♥ A84		
	♦ 10987543		
	♣ 82		

West	North	East	South
<i>M.Mus</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Fr'esche</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
1♥	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	2♠ ⁽²⁾	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Spades and a minor

(2) Heart raise, 10+ points

North led the ♣10. Declarer took the ♣A and played the ♥2: eight – jack – ten. After ♦2, king, ace, declarer continued with dummy's ♥3. South rose with the ♥A and switched to the ♠Q. West took the ♠A, drew the last trump and had ten tricks, +620, losing a spade, a heart and a club.

	North	
	♠ K96542	
	♥ 10	
	♦ K	
	♣ K10975	
West		East
♠ AJ10		♠ 873
♥ KJ976		♥ Q532
♦ J62		♦ AQ
♣ QJ		♣ A643
	South	
	♠ Q	
	♥ A84	
	♦ 10987543	
	♣ 82	

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Gautret</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>C.Mus</i>
1♥	1♠	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3NT! ⁽²⁾	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Heart raise, 10+ points

(2) Pass or correct to 4♥.

That was a very fine 3NT rebid by West. If no-trumps did not suit East, he could remove 3NT to 4♥. With three rag spades, 3NT suited East very nicely. North led the ♣10: three – eight – queen. The ♥J went to the ace and South switched to the ♠Q. West took the ace and played ♦6, king, ace. A spade now gives West 11 tricks, but the result recorded was 9 tricks, +600 and –1 Imp. That 3NT bid deserved to pick up Imps.

West dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?

(1) 15-17 points

What is your plan of bidding with this South hand? East-West pass throughout.

♠ AKQ64
♥ K9643
♦ 53
♣ 2

There are plenty of hands where slam will be cold for North-South. For example, give North any of these:

♠ J3	or	♠ J72	or	♠ 75
♥ AQ72		♥ A8		♥ A872
♦ A64		♦ AK64		♦ AK64
♣ A983		♣ A983		♣ A74

You make 13 tricks
in hearts most of the time.

6♠ is a strong
chance.

6♥ is about
a 90% chance.

A reasonable approach is to bid 1NT : 2♥ (transfer), 2♠ : 3♥ (forcing) and if partner rebids 3NT, you rebid 4♥ to show a 5-5 hand with slam interest. With only game interest and 5-5, you would bid 1NT : 2♥, 2♠ : 4♥, pass or correct.

Bd. 14: West dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J8	
	♥ J10	
	♦ AQ1076	
	♣ AK104	
West		East
♠ 752		♠ 1093
♥ A75		♥ Q82
♦ K984		♦ J2
♣ J65		♣ Q9873
	South	
	♠ AKQ64	
	♥ K9643	
	♦ 53	
	♣ 2	

If it does go 1NT : 2♥, 2♠ : 3♥, 3NT : 4♥, North should give preference to 4♠. South could have six spades and five hearts. As North did not support spades over 3♥, South can place North with a 2-2-4-5 or 2-2-5-4 pattern. That should dampen South's enthusiasm for slam.

Because some players do open 1NT with a 2-2-4-5 / 2-2-5-4 pattern, some play that 1NT : 2♥, 2♠ : 3♥ shows a 5-5 pattern already. Now North would bid 3NT over 3♥ and South would pass.

How do such players show a 5-4 pattern in the majors? South would bid 1NT : 2♣. If partner shows a major, you show support for that major. After 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ responder rebids 3♠ with 4 spades, 5 hearts or rebids 3♥ with 4 hearts and 5 spades.

Although 6♠ or 6♥ is a poor slam note, that on the actual layout, with spades 3-3 and hearts 3-3 with the ♥Q onside, you can make 6♠ or 6♥.

West	North	East	South
<i>M.Mus</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Fr'esche</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 4 hearts, 5 spades

(2) 5 hearts, 5 spades, mild slam interest

Going via 1NT : 2♥, 2♠ : 3♥ would show 5-5 in the majors and strong slam interest. Some pairs also use 1NT : 2♥, 2♠ : 4♥ as a splinter (0-1 heart, 6+ spades and slam interest).

West led the ♦4, queen. The ♥10 went to the ace. West switched to the ♣5, ace. After ♥J, queen, king, the ♥9 drew the missing trumps and South has 12 tricks, +480.

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Gautret</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>C.Mus</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥ (Spades)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠10, taken by the ♠J. North played the ♥J: queen – king – ace. West returned the ♠7 and 6NT could not be made, as declarer cannot unblock the hearts and return to dummy. Declarer cashed the spades, followed by the ♦3 to the ♦10. East won with the ♦J and returned a heart. The result was three down and 12 Imps to ZIMMERMANN.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. North dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 4
♥ A98762
♦ QJ7
♣ J75

2. North dealer : East-West vulnerable

North passes and East opens 1♣. What would you do with:

♠ AKQ764
♥ 9
♦ KJ9
♣ A96

Suppose you have chosen to double. It then goes:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	?

What now?

What if the auction had started:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

What now?

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

2020: Sorry! The lifestyle you ordered is out of stock.