

77. Valuation consideration

By Ron Klinger

Today's deals are from Round 5 of Alt-Invitational III, organized by bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online). These were the teams:

Blass	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
Bridge Scanner	Konrad Araszkievicz, Krzysztof Kotorowicz, Wojciech Olanski, Vytautas Vainikonis, Erikas Vainikonis, Andrei Arlovich, Mirhail Krasnoselskii, Georgy Matushko
De Botton	Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes, Artur Malinowski
Donner	Gary Donner, Cecilia Rimstedt, Frederik Nystrom, Johan Upmark, Marion Michielsen, Per Ola Cullin,
Gupta	Naren Gupta, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs, Huub Bertens, Cedric Lorenzini, Thomas Bessis
Street	Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski
Team Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, Chris Willenken, Jan Jansma, Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindquist
Team Russia	Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Vadim Kholomeev, Yury Khuppenen, Yury Khokhlov, Alexander Dubinin

North dealer : Both vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ 862
♥ 32
♦ AKQ2
♣ J632

This is a mildly surprising question. You might be thinking, 'Hey, hang on, why didn't I bid a natural, non-forcing 2NT immediately over 2♣?' For the players who passed, did 2NT have a conventional meaning (a heart raise), did they think the hand was not worth 2NT or were they frightened of being penalized if they bid 2NT?

Bd. 13: North dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ4	
	♥ AQJ106	
	♦ 1053	
	♣ A9	
West		East
♠ 1095		♠ KJ73
♥ 9875		♥ K4
♦ 98764		♦ J
♣ 5		♣ KQ10874
	South	
	♠ 862	
	♥ 32	
	♦ AKQ2	
	♣ J632	

After the auction given, **ROSENTHAL** was +110 when South bid 2♦(??), all pass. **BLASS's** South bid 2NT and North 3NT, all pass. West led the ♣5, nine, queen. East returned the ♣10, ace. South played ♦5, jack, ace, and finessed the ♥Q. East won and cashed the ♣Q. South claimed the rest, ten tricks, +630 and +11 Imps.

North dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ4	
	♥ AQJ106	
	♦ 1053	
	♣ A9	
West		East
♠ 1095		♠ KJ73
♥ 9875		♥ K4
♦ 98764		♦ J
♣ 5		♣ KQ10874
	South	
	♠ 862	
	♥ 32	
	♦ AKQ2	
	♣ J632	

DE BOTTON had the 1♥ : 2♣ : Pass : Pass, Double : Pass : 2NT : Pass, 3NT, all pass auction. The play began ♣5, nine, king, club return to ♣A, diamond to ♦A, heart finesse. East won and returned a heart. The run of the red suits squeezed East and South ended with 11 tricks, +660.

STREET North-South:

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

(1) Strong hand, stopper ask

For most pairs, South's double would promise 4+ spades. East led the ♣K. North won, crossed to the ♦A and finessed in hearts. East won and cashed the ♣Q. North claimed 11 tricks, +660, no swing.

DONNER North-South had the usual auction, with South passing over 2♣ and ending in 3NT. West led the ♣5. South made 11 tricks, +660.

GUPTA North-South: North opened 1♣ (artificial, strong). East bid 2♣. South doubled. After Pass from West, North bid 2♥ : Pass : 3NT, all pass. West led the ♣5. South made 10 tricks, +630, 1 Imp away.

BRIDGE SCANNER North-South: 1♣ (artificial, strong) : 2♣ : Pass : Pass, 2♥ : Pass : 3NT, all pass. West led the ♠10, ace. South made 10 tricks, +630.

RUSSIA North-South: North opened 1NT : South 3♣ (asking for a 5-card major), North 3♥ (5 hearts) : South 3NT, all pass. East led the ♣Q (promising the ♣K). North won, crossed to the ♦A and took the heart finesse. East won and switched to the ♠J. North made 11 tricks, +660, +1 Imp.

You are the dealer, neither side vulnerable. What would you do with:

♠ KQ108742
♥ --
♦ 93
♣ 10954

If you count losers, you have six losers and so seven playing tricks. That would prompt a 4♠ opening. Those who fancy 7-4 patterns would also open 4♠. Those of a conservative nature might open 3♠.

IN ALT III, five opened 4♠, two opened 3♠ and one opened 2♠.

West dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AJ9	
	♥ J10432	
	♦ AK	
	♣ AJ2	
West		East
♠ KQ108742		♠ 5
♥ --		♥ AKQ97
♦ 93		♦ J1086
♣ 10954		♣ Q63
	South	
	♠ 63	
	♥ 865	
	♦ Q7542	
	♣ K87	

Where West opened 3♣, North bid 3NT, all pass. At one table it went ♥A lead; ♠5 switch, queen, ace; ♦A; ♦K; ♥J, won by the ♥Q and the ♣3, taken by the ♣J. North crossed to the ♣K, cashed the ♦Q and played a spade. West took the ♠K and returned a club. North made 2 spades, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs, one down, -50. At the other table, West opened 4♠. North doubled, all pass. North led ♦A; ♦K; ♣J, queen, king; ♠8, ten, ace. Declarer still had two spades to lose, three down, -500, 11 Imps to [ROSENTHAL](#).

Some play the double of 4♠ as penalties. Others play it as takeout. Even when the double is for takeout, it shows a very strong hand, since it commits the partnership to the 5-level if partner bids. Therefore one often leaves the double in for penalties with a balanced hand.

The bidding and play were almost identical in [DE BOTTON](#) vs [STREET](#) with 3♣ : 3NT, all pass, one off, East-West +50, and 4♠ : Double, all pass, three off, North-South +500 and 11 Imps to [STREET](#).

The board was flat at North-South +500 for 4♠ : Double, all pass, at both tables in [DONNER](#) vs [GUPTA](#).

[RUSSIA](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

(1) Lebensohl, asking partner to bid 3♣. South was intending to bail out in 3♦ over 3♣.

West led ♠K, winning, and switched to the ♦9, ace. After cashing the ♦K, South played the ♥J. East won and returned the ♦J, queen. East won the ♦7 exit with the ♦8 and cashed two hearts for one light, East-West +100.

[BRIDGE SCANNER](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♠K, taken by the ace. Declarer played ♦A; ♦K; ♣2 to the ♣K; ♠6, taken by the ♠Q. West switched to the ♣10, ace. Declarer discarded the ♣8 on dummy's ♠J, as East ruffed. East cashed three hearts to take 5♦ doubled three down, East-West +500 and +9 Imps to [RUSSIA](#).

Round 5 Results:

	Imps	Victory Points
Donner - Gupta	52 - 48	10.99 - 9.01
Street - De Botton	86 - 43	17.47 - 2.53
Rosenthal - Blass	29 - 55	4.76 - 15.39
Bridge Scanner - Russia	38 - 82	2.42 - 17.58

Standings after Round 5:

1. Blass	86.16
2. Russia	63.83
3. Street	55.25
4. Gupta	53.65
5. Donner	47.31
6. Bridge Scanner	43.46
7. De Botton	32.15
8. Rosenthal	18.34

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
2♥ ⁽¹⁾	4♣ ⁽²⁾	4♥	?

(1) Weak two

(2) Leaping Michaels, 5+ spades, 5+ clubs

What would you do as South with:

♠ A1052
♥ 987
♦ AJ8
♣ 1073

2. South dealer : East-West vulnerable

North
♠ K109
♥ KJ84
♦ AQJ10
♣ K3

East
♠ 83
♥ Q103
♦ K9852
♣ QJ7

South opens 1NT (15-17 points). North bids 2♣, Stayman. South bids 2♦, no major. North jumps to 6NT, all pass. West leads the ♠7: nine – three – queen. South plays the ♦4: three – jack . . . which card do you play?

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

I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?