

# 111. Bringing 3NT home

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

North  
♠ AKJ87  
♥ A  
♦ AJ107  
♣ K102

South  
♠ 64  
♥ K876  
♦ 9852  
♣ Q96

You are South in 3NT, no East-West bidding. West leads the ♣4: two – ace – six. East returns the ♥4: six – three – ace. Plan the play.

After four virtual Alt-Invitational Open Tournaments, bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online), decided to switch to an Alt-Invitational Mixed Teams. The structure was the same with eight invited teams playing a round-robin of 24-board matches, followed by semi-finals and a final.

After Round 7, the leaders were 1. **PEPSI** (May Sakr – Jacek Pszczola, Anna Gulevich – Andrei Gromov, Danuta Kazmucha – Dominic Filipowicz, 90.92 Victory Points) 2. **MANGOES** (Irene Baroni – Thomas Bessis, Daniela von Arnim – Cedric Lorenzini, Hilda Setton – Pierre Franceschetti, 88.13 VPs) 3. **MELTZER** (Rose Meltzer – Nick Demirev, Catherine D'Ovidio – Benedict Cronier – Michel Abecassis, Marc Bompis – Sylvie Willard, 87.67) 4. **DONNER** (Sandra Rimstedt – Gary Donner, Cecilia Rimstedt – Kevin Dwyer, Marion Michielsen – Per-Ola Cullin, 76.51).

For the semi-finals, **PEPSI** chose **DONNER** and won by 96.1-43. In the other semi-final, **MELTZER** beat **MANGOES** by 103-40.1 **MELTZER** won the first 12-board segment by 94-0. Consider that next time your team is thinking of conceding when down 50/60/70 Imps with 16 boards to play.

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AKJ87	
	♥ A	
	♦ AJ107	
	♣ K102	
West		East
♠ Q95		♠ 1032
♥ 1093		♥ QJ542
♦ 64		♦ KQ3
♣ J8543		♣ A7
	South	
	♠ 64	
	♥ K876	
	♦ 9852	
	♣ Q96	

With **PEPSI** North-South, East-West did not bid. North-South bid 2♣ : 2♦, 2♠ : 2NT, 3NT, all pass. West led the ♣3: two – ace – six. East switched to the ♥4 to dummy's ♥A. Declarer cashed the ♠A (in case the ♠Q was singleton), crossed to the ♣Q and finessed the ♠J. When the ♠K removed the missing spades, declarer cashed two more spades and exited with the ♦J. East won and played another heart. South won with the ♥K, crossed to the ♦A and cashed the ♣K of ten tricks, +430.

	North	
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	♥ A	
	♦ AJ107	
	♣ K102	
West		East
♠ Q95		♠ 1032
♥ 1093		♥ QJ542
♦ 64		♦ KQ3
♣ J8543		♣ A7
	South	
	♠ 64	
	♥ K876	
	♦ 9852	
	♣ Q96	

This was yesterday's first problem: You are the dealer, both sides vulnerable. What do you do with:

♠ AKJ87  
♥ A  
♦ AJ107  
♣ K102

With 20 HCP and 4½ losers, this would not be everyone's choice for a 2♣ opening. Standard bidders would open 1♠. Although East has 12 HCP, the hearts are not strong enough for a 2-level overcall. However, they are good enough for a 1♥ overcall, even after a strong 1♣ opening.

**DONNER** North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dble <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Artificial, 16+ points

(2) Takeout

West led the ♥10, ace. Declarer played the ♣2: seven – queen – three and the ♦2: four – jack – king. East returned the ♥4. South took the ♥K and played the ♦9: six – seven . . . had that won and East followed low, South would have had 2 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs. It was a good plan but East won with the ♦K and cashed three hearts to take 3NT two down, East-West +100 and +11 Imps.

With **MANGOES** North-South, the bidding, with East-West silent, went 1♠ : 1NT, 2NT (game-force) : 3♦, 3NT, all pass. South received the ♣4 lead to the ace and a heart switch. Declarer went after diamonds and finished two down, –100, as above.

**MELTZER** North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♣	2NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥2, taken by the ♥A. Declarer followed the double-finesse-in-diamonds play and went one off, –50 but +2 Imps.

Vulnerable against not, partner opens 1NT, 15-17 points. Pass on your right. What do you do with:

♠ K1074  
♥ K83  
♦ J53  
♣ Q98

You have 9 HCP, so game is possible if partner is maximum. The least you can do is to invite game. At teams, vulnerable games are worth bidding with a 40% chance of success. That means it is reasonable to reach 3NT when vulnerable if your side has 24+ HCP.

At two tables it went 1NT : 3NT (my preference), all pass. One table bid 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ : 3NT, all pass. With a 9-loser 4-3-3-3, I would not be enthusiastic about 4♠ even if partner has four spades. The other advantage of bidding 3NT at once is that you give less information to the defenders. At the remaining table, it went 1NT : Pass : Pass : Pass. So three Souths were in 3NT, one was in 1NT. One of the contracts went one off, the other made, but it was the 1NT contract which went down. At the other three tables, declarer made nine tricks.

You can cover the East-West cards and plan your play as South in 3NT on the ♥4 lead: three – queen – ace.

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K1074	
	♥ K83	
	♦ J53	
	♣ Q98	
West		East
♠ 962		♠ AJ83
♥ 109642		♥ Q7
♦ Q7		♦ K964
♣ K106		♣ J74
	South	
	♠ Q5	
	♥ AJ5	
	♦ A1082	
	♣ A532	

**MANGOES** North-South (1NT : 2♣, 2♦ : 3NT): West led the ♥4: three – queen – ace. That gives South 3 hearts tricks. The favourable club position allows 3 tricks three. You can set up a spade trick. That plus the ♦A brings you to eight tricks. As you can see, there is work to be done.

At trick 2, South played the ♣3: six – queen – four and then ducked a club, won by West, who switched to ♠9: ten – jack – queen. South cashed the ♣A, followed by the ♣2: ♥2 – ♦3 – ♠3 and the ♥J, all following. Then came ♠5: two – four – eight. East switched to the ♦4: two – queen – jack. West returned the ♦7 and South had 2 diamonds and 9 tricks, +600.

**MELTZER** North-South (1NT : 3NT): West led the ♥4: three – queen – ace. After ♣2 to the ♣Q, declarer played the ♦3: four – eight – queen. Back came the ♥10, won by the ♥J. Declarer ducked a club, won the heart return with dummy's ♥K and played ♦J, king, ace. South cashed the ♦10, ♣A, ♣5 and a spade for nine tricks, +600, no swing.

**DONNER** North-South (1NT : 3NT): West led the ♥10: three – queen – ace. South played ♦2 and West rose with the ♦Q to play the ♥4: eight – seven – five. Then came ♦J, king, ace, and the ♠Q: two – four – three. Declarer shifted to the ♣3. West took the ♣K and returned a third heart. South had 9 tricks and +600.

**PEPSI** North-South: (1NT, passed out): West led the ♥4: three – queen – ace. Declarer now had three heart winners, the ♦A and ♣A and could set up a spade trick. It is not easy to see how declarer could not make more than that. This is what happened: Trick 2: ♣2: six – nine – jack. T3: ♥7: five – nine – king. T4: ♦3: four – eight – queen. T5: ♥10: eight – ♠3 – ♥J. T6: ♠K wins. T7: ♣3, king. T8-9 Hearts. T10-11 spades. The defence had taken 2 clubs, 1 diamond, 2 hearts and 2 spades. *'The stuff that screams are made of.'*

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

North  
♠ Q73  
♥ --  
♦ 1098  
♣ AK98765

South  
♠ AK984  
♥ Q6542  
♦ 42  
♣ J

West	North	East	South
		1♥	1♠
Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	2NT <sup>(2)</sup>	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Minors or one long minor

(2) Spade raise

West leads the ♦A, ♦K and ♦6: ten – queen – ♠4. Plan the play.

2. Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North  
♠ AK5432  
♥ 2  
♦ 42  
♣ K832

South  
♠ 7  
♥ A1087  
♦ KQ9  
♣ AQ976

South opened 1♣, North bid 1♠ and with no East-West bidding, South has reached 6♣. West leads the ♥J (underleading): two – four – ace. All follow to the ♣A. Plan the play.

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

*During the Middle Ages they celebrated the end of a plague with wine and orgies. Does anyone know whether they have something like that planned when this one ends? (Asking for a friend)*