

# 192. The dark side of light bids

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

|      |                   |      |                   |
|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|
| West | North             | East | South             |
| Pass | 3♦ <sup>(2)</sup> | Pass | 2♦ <sup>(1)</sup> |
| ?    |                   | 3♠   | Pass              |

(1) 10-14 points, 5+ diamonds, no 4+ major, not 5-5 in the minors

(2) Natural, not forcing, not invitational

What would you do as West with:

♠ 1043  
♥ Q654  
♦ AKJ  
♣ 975

In Round 3 of the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, held in August and organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, Australia 1 (Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung – Jamie Thompson) played New Zealand 1 (Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Matthew McManus – Michael Ware, James Coutts – Justin Mill).

Board 6: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

|        |  |          |          |  |
|--------|--|----------|----------|--|
|        |  | North    |          |  |
|        |  | ♠ Q      |          |  |
|        |  | ♥ A9872  |          |  |
|        |  | ♦ 6543   |          |  |
|        |  | ♣ QJ4    |          |  |
| West   |  |          | East     |  |
| ♠ 1043 |  |          | ♠ J97652 |  |
| ♥ Q654 |  |          | ♥ K103   |  |
| ♦ AKJ  |  |          | ♦ 8      |  |
| ♣ 975  |  |          | ♣ K108   |  |
|        |  | South    |          |  |
|        |  | ♠ AK8    |          |  |
|        |  | ♥ J      |          |  |
|        |  | ♦ Q10972 |          |  |
|        |  | ♣ A632   |          |  |

|               |                     |             |                   |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| West          | North               | East        | South             |
| <i>Coutts</i> | <i>Hans</i>         | <i>Mill</i> | <i>Gill</i>       |
| Pass          | 1♥                  | Pass        | 1♦ <sup>(1)</sup> |
| 2♠            | Dble <sup>(2)</sup> | 1♠          | Pass              |
| Pass          | Pass                | 3♠          | 3NT               |
|               |                     | Pass        |                   |

(1) 10-15 points, 2+ diamonds

(2) For takeout

West led the ♠10: queen – two – eight. Declarer played the ♦6: eight – queen – king. West returned the ♠4. South won and pursued diamonds. West won and continued with the ♣3. South won and knocked out West's last diamond. West exited with the ♥4, taken by the ♥A. After ♣J, king, ace, South took two diamonds and the ♣Q, but that was only eight tricks (3 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs), one light, East-West +50.

Some might think South's 3NT was optimistic opposite a hand competing for the part-score, but swap the ♦8 for the ♦J or if diamonds had been 2-2, 3NT would have rolled home.

Board 6: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

|        |  |          |          |  |
|--------|--|----------|----------|--|
|        |  | North    |          |  |
|        |  | ♠ Q      |          |  |
|        |  | ♥ A9872  |          |  |
|        |  | ♦ 6543   |          |  |
|        |  | ♣ QJ4    |          |  |
| West   |  |          | East     |  |
| ♠ 1043 |  |          | ♠ J97652 |  |
| ♥ Q654 |  |          | ♥ K103   |  |
| ♦ AKJ  |  |          | ♦ 8      |  |
| ♣ 975  |  |          | ♣ K108   |  |
|        |  | South    |          |  |
|        |  | ♠ AK8    |          |  |
|        |  | ♥ J      |          |  |
|        |  | ♦ Q10972 |          |  |
|        |  | ♣ A632   |          |  |

This was yesterday's question:

|      |                   |      |                   |
|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|
| West | North             | East | South             |
|      |                   | Pass | 2♦ <sup>(1)</sup> |
| Pass | 3♦ <sup>(2)</sup> | ?    |                   |

(1) 10-14 points, 5+ diamonds, no 4+ major, not 5-5 in the minors  
(2) Natural, not forcing, not invitational

What would you do as East with:

♠ J97652  
♥ K103  
♦ 8  
♣ K108

Playing teams, in most cases, it does not pay to compete 3-over-3 if your side has no more than the values for a part-score. East has 7 HCP and West was unable to compete over 2♦. With decent values, West might have doubled 2♦ for takeout. With sufficient values and a stopper in diamonds, West could have overcalled 2NT. East should pass 3♦. The auction went this way:

|               |                |                  |             |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| West          | North          | East             | South       |
| <i>Ashton</i> | <i>McManus</i> | <i>Wiltshire</i> | <i>Ware</i> |
|               |                | Pass             | 2♦          |
| Pass          | 3♦             | 3♠?              | Pass        |
| Pass          | 4♦             | Pass             | Pass        |
| Dble?         | Pass           | Pass             | Pass        |

West led the ♠3, taken by the ♠Q. After ♣Q, eight, ace, South played ♠A, ♠K, discarding two clubs from dummy. Then came club ruff, ♥A, heart ruff, club ruff. The outcome was that West made just three trump tricks and so South made 4♦ doubled for +510 and 11 Imps to New Zealand 1.

East's 3♠ is not recommended. Suppose South had doubled 3♠. East loses 3 spades, a heart and 2 clubs, two down for -200 undoubled or -500 if doubled. For what? To protect against a 3♦ part-score.

You might think 3♠ was unwise, but one can also take issue with West's double: (a) West has only two sure tricks. Might the ♦Q not be in the North hand? (b) East could not open the bidding. Why should East be able to produce two or more defensive tricks? (c) North has competed to the 4-level. Won't North have decent shape and values to justify that? (d) If you do beat 4♦ by one trick, you score 100 instead of 50. If you are wrong, you lose 510. That's a big bet. (e) North's 4♦ is not stealing a contract from us. Who is to say 3♠ was making?

New Zealand won the match by 32 Imps to 7.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

|      |       |      |       |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ?    | Pass  | Pass | 1♠    |

What would you do as West with:

♠ QJ9  
♥ A10763  
♦ 10  
♣ KQ97

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

*I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. (Thomas Alva Edison, 1847-1931)*

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| New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email <a href="mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com">suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</a> or telephone 0411 229 705. |
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