

# 212. Open or pass? Overcall or pass?

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
?			2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Weak two, 6 diamonds, 6-10 points

What would you do as West with:

♠ AQJ109  
♥ J10765  
♦ 8  
♣ J10

Today's deal comes from the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Knock-Out Teams) Round of 16 match between [FLEISHER](#) and [TULIN](#).

Board 5: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 743		
	♥ Q8		
	♦ A10543		
	♣ A73		
West		East	
♠ AQJ109		♠ K62	
♥ J10765		♥ AK9	
♦ 8		♦ 9	
♣ J10		♣ KQ9652	
	South		
	♠ 85		
	♥ 432		
	♦ KQJ762		
	♣ 84		

West	North	East	South
<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Moss</i>
			Pass
1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	4♦	Pass <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass
Dble <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Could have 5 spades

(2) Could be 5-card support

(3) Forcing, slam interest

(4) Do what's right, partner.

The East-West bidding is non-standard, but a sensible spot was reached. Had East passed West's double, they could have taken 4♦ doubled two down for +500.

North led the ♦A, followed by the ♦4. West ruffed with dummy's ♥9 and ditched the ♣10. After ♥A, ♥K and ♣2 to the ♣J and ♣A, West claimed 11 tricks, +450.

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	♠ 743		
	♥ Q8		
	♦ A10543		
	♣ A73		
West		East	
♠ AQJ109		♠ K62	
♥ J10765		♥ AK9	
♦ 8		♦ 9	
♣ J10		♣ KQ9652	
	South		
	♠ 85		
	♥ 432		
	♦ KQJ762		
	♣ 84		

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Padon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Birman</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	1♦
1♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	3♦	4♣	All Pass

(1) Artificial, 16+ points

(2) 8-10 points, 5+ spades

North led ♦A and switched to the ♥8, taken by the ace. Declarer drew trumps and played the ♥J for 11 tricks, East-West +450, no swing. Note that in 2017 neither South opened a weak 2♦. Maybe the vulnerability was a factor. That was not the case when the deal was replayed in a BBO game:

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

(1) Weak two, 6 diamonds, 6-10 points

West's 2♠ is a bit underweight in terms of expectation for a 2-level overcall after a weak two, but if North was about to take a shot at 3NT, West wanted a spade lead. If the West hand were a bit stronger (replace the ♥5 with the ♥A, say), West could bid 4♦ over 2♦ to show at least 5-5 in the majors.

Note that 3♣ by East over 3♥ would not be forcing for most partnerships. West would have no hesitation in passing it with that modest collection. North led the ♦A and switched to the ♥8. Declarer took the ♥A, drew trumps and had 11 tricks, +450.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ AJ  
 ♥ AQJ9642  
 ♦ 952  
 ♣ A

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

*Don't stay in bed, unless you can make money in bed. (George Burns, 1896-1996)*

New book: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email [suzie@ronklingerbridge.com](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) or telephone 0411 229 705.