

65. Going quietly...or not

By Ron Klinger

As dealer, vulnerable vs not vulnerable, what would you do with:

♠ 1076
♥ KQ
♦ AKQ1098
♣ 43

The deal comes from Session 5 of the BBO matches between the current Australian Open Team (Nabil Edgton – Andy Hung, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Michael Courtney – Paul Wyer) and the New Zealand Open Team (Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell, Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Peter Newell – Martin Reid).

With the hand above, I thought one would open 1♦ and if partner bids 1♥ or 1♠, one might rebid 3♦ (aggressive) or 2♦ (conservative). Shows how little I know. Both Wests (Hans and Tislevoll) opted for a 1NT opening. For Hans it was 14-16 points, for Tislevoll 15-17.

Bd. 5: West dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K85	
	♥ A106	
	♦ J4	
	♣ AQ875	
West		East
♠ 1076		♠ J3
♥ KQ		♥ J743
♦ AKQ1098		♦ 762
♣ 43		♣ KJ106
	South	
	♠ AQ942	
	♥ 9852	
	♦ 53	
	♣ 92	

For Hans (W), 1NT kept the opponents quiet. In theory, the defenders can take five spades and two aces (chalk up a plus for the 1♦ opening). In practice, that did not happen. North led the ♣5. Declarer won with dummy's ♣10 and rattled off six rounds of diamonds. South kept all his spades and the defenders took the rest of the tricks, East-West +90.

Courtney (N) is not inclined to go quietly and he doubled West's 1NT opening. Wyer (S) bid 2♠, all pass. West cashed ♦A, ♦K and switched to the ♥K. South took the ♥A and drew trumps. He lost 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and a club, but had 8 tricks for +110, 5 Imps to Australia. Meanwhile, as the cards lie, East-West can make 3♦.

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

(1) 15-18 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ Q85
♥ K8762
♦ AJ1063
♣ --

Bd. 7: South dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ Q85	
	♥ K8762	
	♦ AJ1063	
	♣ --	
West		East
♠ 1076		♠ K432
♥ 93		♥ AJ54
♦ Q52		♦ K4
♣ KQ864		♣ AJ9
	South	
	♠ AJ9	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ 987	
	♣ 107532	

At both tables, it began Pass : Pass : 1♥ : 1NT. With Courtney East, 1NT was passed out. South led the ♣5: four – ♥8 – ♣A. East played the ♦K, which held the trick, followed by ♣J, ♣K, ♣Q, North shedding ♠8, ♠5 and ♦6. East had taken five tricks. The ♥A would make six, but where is the seventh? Declarer played dummy's ♠6: queen – four – nine. North shifted to the ♥6, jack, queen, and South returned the ♥10. East took the ♥A and exited with the ♥4. North was down to red cards only. He could cash his heart winners, but then had to give a trick to dummy's ♦Q, East-West +90.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Gill</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
Pass	2♦!	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 15-18 points

(2) Primarily for takeout

Note North's fine 2♦ rebid, despite having only 10 HCP and a 1NT bidder sitting over him. Shape is king.

North led the ♥8: ace – ten – three. The ♦K was ducked and North won the next diamond cheaply. The ♥7 went to the ♥Q and South shifted to ♣2: four – ♥2 – ♣9. After ♥5: ♦8 – ♣6 – ♥6, West played ♠7: eight – king – ace. South returned a trump. Declarer made a heart, a diamond, a diamond ruff in dummy and five trumps in hand, eight tricks, –100 and 5 Imps to Australia.

Australia won Session 5 by 25-11.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♦ ⁽²⁾	1♠
Pass ⁽³⁾	2♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	?

(1) 4+ clubs, not balanced or any balanced hand outside the no-trump ranges

(2) 4+ hearts

(3) Denies three hearts

(4) Good raise to 2♠

What would you do as South with:

♠ QJ852
♥ A832
♦ --
♣ K952

2. West dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A75432
♥ K962
♦ --
♣ AK2

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

To relieve the boredom of isolation, my wife and I decided to go north for the day. So we took a few steps out the front door. Tomorrow we might head south via the back door.