## 70. Contract choices

## By Ron Klinger

South dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	1♠	<b>2</b> ♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
9			

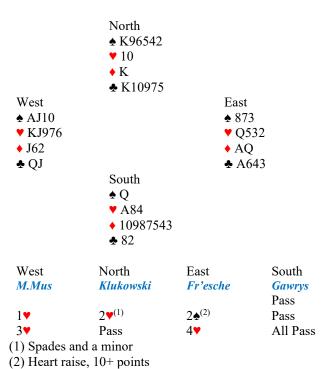
(1) Heart raise, limit or stronger

What would you do as West with:

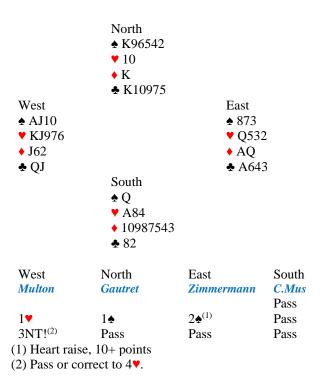
- **♠** AJ10
- **♥** KJ976
- **♦** J62
- **♣** QJ

The deal comes from GAUTRET vs ZIMMERMANN, one of the semi-finals in the 2019 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams). The two semi-finals played different deals.

Bd. 13: South dealer: Both vulnerable



North led the  $\clubsuit 10$ . Declarer took the  $\clubsuit A$  and played the  $\blacktriangledown 2$ : eight – jack – ten. After • 2, king, ace, declarer continued with dummy's  $\blacktriangledown 3$ . South rose with the  $\blacktriangledown A$  and switched to the  $\clubsuit Q$ . West took the  $\clubsuit A$ , drew the last trump and had ten tricks, +620, losing a spade, a heart and a club.



That was a very fine 3NT rebid by West. If no-trumps did not suit East, he could remove 3NT to 4♥. With three rag spades, 3NT suited East very nicely. North led the ♣10: three – eight – queen. The ♥J went to the ace and South switched to the ♠Q. West took the ace and played ♦6, king, ace. A spade now gives West 11 tricks, but the result recorded was 9 tricks, +600 and −1 Imp. That 3NT bid deserved to pick up Imps.

West dealer: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	$1NT^{(1)}$	Pass	?
(1) 15-17 p	oints		

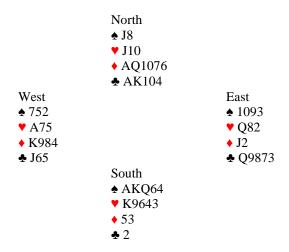
What is your plan of bidding with this South hand? East-West pass throughout.

- ★ AKQ64▼ K9643◆ 53★ 2
- There are plenty of hands where slam will be cold for North-South. For example, give North any of these:

<b>⊉</b> 13	or	<b>₹</b> J / Z	or	<b>9</b> /3
<b>♥</b> AQ72		<b>♥</b> A8		<b>♥</b> A872
♦ A64		◆ AK64		◆ AK64
♣ A983		♣ A983		♣ A74
You make 13 tric	ks	6♠ is a strong		6 <b>♥</b> is about
in hearts most of	the time.	chance.		a 90% chance.

A reasonable approach is to bid 1NT:  $2\blacktriangledown$  (transfer),  $2\blacktriangle$ :  $3\blacktriangledown$  (forcing) and if partner rebids 3NT, you rebid  $4\blacktriangledown$  to show a 5-5 hand with slam interest. With only game interest and 5-5, you would bid 1NT:  $2\blacktriangledown$ ,  $2\blacktriangle$ :  $4\blacktriangledown$ , pass or correct.

## Bd. 14: West dealer: Nil vulnerable



If it does go 1NT:  $2\checkmark$ ,  $2\spadesuit$ :  $3\checkmark$ , 3NT:  $4\checkmark$ , North should give preference to  $4\spadesuit$ . South could have six spades and five hearts. As North did not support spades over  $3\checkmark$ , South can place North with a 2-2-4-5 or 2-2-5-4 pattern. That should dampen South's enthusiasm for slam.

Because some players do open 1NT with a 2-2-4-5 / 2-2-5-4 pattern, some play that 1NT :  $2\checkmark$ ,  $2\spadesuit$  :  $3\checkmark$  shows a 5-5 pattern already. Now North would bid 3NT over  $3\checkmark$  and South would pass.

How do such players show a 5-4 pattern in the majors? South would bid 1NT:  $2\clubsuit$ . If partner shows a major, you show support for that major. After 1NT:  $2\clubsuit$ ,  $2\spadesuit$  responder rebids  $3\spadesuit$  with 4 spades, 5 hearts or rebids  $3\blacktriangledown$  with 4 hearts and 5 spades.

Although  $6 \spadesuit$  or  $6 \blacktriangledown$  is a poor slam note, that on the actual layout, with spades 3-3 and hearts 3-3 with the  $\blacktriangledown Q$  onside, you can make  $6 \spadesuit$  or  $6 \blacktriangledown$ .

West	North	East	South
M.Mus	Klukowski	Fr'esche	Gawrys
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	<b>3</b> ♥ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	<b>4</b> ♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(4) 44			

- (1) 4 hearts, 5 spades
- (2) 5 hearts, 5 spades, mild slam interest

Going via 1NT:  $2\checkmark$ ,  $2\spadesuit$ :  $3\checkmark$  would show 5-5 in the majors and strong slam interest. Some pairs also use 1NT:  $2\checkmark$ ,  $2\spadesuit$ :  $4\checkmark$  as a splinter (0-1 heart, 6+ spades and slam interest).

West led the ◆4, queen. The ▼10 went to the ace. West switched to the ♣5, ace. After ▼J, queen, king, the ▼9 drew the missing trumps and South has 12 tricks, +480.

West	North	East	South
Multon	Gautret	Zimmermann	C.Mus
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥ (Spades)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠10, taken by the ♠J. North played the ♥J: queen – king – ace. West returned the ♠7 and 6NT could not be made, as declarer cannot unblock the hearts and return to dummy. Declarer cashed the spades, followed by the ♦3 to the ♦10. East won with the ♦J and returned a heart. The result was three down and 12 Imps to ZIMMERMANN.

## **Problems for Tomorrow:**

1. North dealer: East-West vulnerable

West North East South Pass Pass ?

What would you do as South with:

- **♠** 4
- **♥** A98762
- **♦** QJ7
- **♣** J75
- 2. North dealer: East-West vulnerable

North passes and East opens 1♣. What would you do with:

- **♠** AKQ764
- **y** 9
- ♦ KJ9
- ♣ A96

Suppose you have chosen to double. It then goes:

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

What now?

What if the auction had started:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

What now?

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

2020: Sorry! The lifestyle you ordered is out of stock.