116. The bold and the bashful

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable

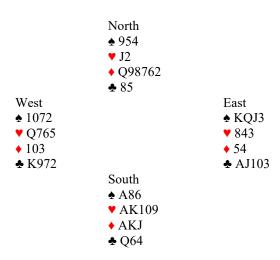
West North East South $2NT^{(1)}$ Pass ? (1) 20-22 points

What would you do as North with:

- ◆ 954♥ J2
- Q98762
- **♣** 85

The deal arose in the quarter-finals of the 2015 World Teams:

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The best spot would often be 3♦, but this time 3NT was a cinch. In the Bermuda Bowl (Open Teams), England North-South bid 2NT : 3♣ (asking), 3♦ (no 5-card major), all pass. At the other table, USA1 North-South similarly via 1♣ (strong) : 1♦ (negative), 2NT (21-23) : 3♣, 3♦, all pass. Both made ten tricks, no swing.

USA2 North-South began with a strong 1♣ and ended in 4♠, +130. China North-South bid 2NT : 3♣ (simple Stayman), 3♥ and played in 3NT. The ♠2 was led and declarer took his nine tricks, +400, 7 Imps to: China.

France North-South bid 2NT : 3NT. Declarer received the ♥5 lead and made ten tricks, +430. Poland North-South bid 2NT : 3♣, 3♦ (no 5-major), all pass, +130 but 7 Imps to France.

Bulgaria North-South played in 3NT for +430 on the ♥5 lead. Sweden North-South had an accident and played in 2♣, three off, North-South –150 and 11 Imps to Bulgaria.

In the Venice Cup (Women's Teams), the contracts were 3NT +430 x 4, +400 x 1, 3♦ +130 x 2, 2NT +150.

In the D'Orsi Trophy (Seniors' Teams), the contract were 3NT + 460, $+430 \times 4$, +400, $3 + 130 \times 2$. Australia picked up 7 Imps for $3NT + 430 \times 3 - 130$.

You can see that most North-South pairs did end in 3NT.

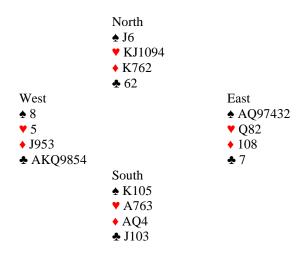
At favourable vulnerability, South opens 1♣ (3+ clubs). What would you do as West with:

♦ 8 **♥** 5 **♦** J953 **♣** AKQ9854

Because players are opening $1 \clubsuit$ with just three clubs and some with only two clubs, many pairs have adopted a $2 \clubsuit$ overcall as natural and a $3 \clubsuit$ jump-overcall as intermediate, 11-14 points with 6+ clubs. To replace $(1 \clubsuit): 2 \clubsuit$ as the Michaels Cue-Bid, pairs that want to use the $2 \clubsuit$ overcall as natural now play $(1 \clubsuit): 2 \spadesuit$ as Michaels to show at least 5-5 in the majors. They are prepared to forego $(1 \clubsuit): 2 \spadesuit$ as a weak jump-overcall. You and your partner(s) simply need to agree on your methods here.

This deal is also from the quarter-finals of the 2015 World Teams:

Bd. 83: Dealer South: East-West vulnerable



England East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Lead: ♥A.	8 tricks. East-V	West –200.	

USA1 East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
Lead: ♥J. 9	tricks. East-W	Vest −100.	
3 Imps to U	JSA1.		

What do you do as West if South opens 1NT?

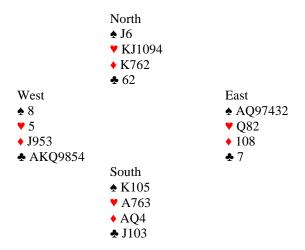
China East-West:

West	North	East	South 1NT
Pass	$2^{(1)}$	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Transfe	er to hearts		

The defence went ♣A, ♣K, ♠8 to ♠A, spade return ruffed, East-West +50

With USA2 East-West, China's South also opened 1NT. There is an attraction for passing as West and hoping North-South end in no-trumps. USA2's West bid 3♣. East bid 4♠, all pass two off, −200, 6 Imps to China.

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable



France East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ♣7. West won and switched to the ♠8. East took the ♠A and returned the ♠2 (suit-preference for clubs). West ruffed, cashed the ♣A and played the ♣K. North ruffed with the ♥J. East over-ruffed, one light, East-West +50.

Poland East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♣	Dble	2♠	Pass
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The play followed the same lines as at the other table. When West played the ♣K at trick 5, North ruffed with the ♥K and played the ♥J, letting it run when East followed low. One down, East-West +100, 2 Imps to Poland.

Bulgaria played in 4♣ East-West –100 and in 4♥ North-South –50 for 4 Imps to Sweden.

Venice Cup (Women's Teams), England East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

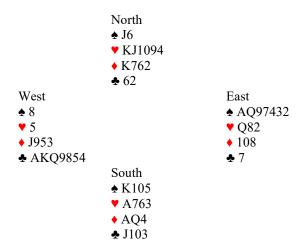
The play matched the defence when France was East-West (see above) and 3♥ was one down, North-South +50.

USA1 East-West

West	North	East	South
			1♣
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West made 3♣, +110 and 4 Imps to USA1. It is good to have methods where West can show those clubs.

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Venice Cup, China North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
3♣	3 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Transfe	er to hearts		

(1) Transfer to hearts

West led the ♣A, ♣K. East discarded the ♠2, low-like. West switched to the ♠8. East took the ♠A and returned the ♠4, king, ruffed. West reverted to the ♠Q, ♥J, ♥Q, two down, East-West +100.

With USA2 North-South, it also began South 1NT, West 3♣ and South ended in 4♥. West led ♣K, ♣A and East discarded the ♦8. West continued with the ♣Q. North ruffed with the ♥K and played the ♥J, winning, and the ▼10, winning. The next heart removed East's ▼Q. With no possibility of misguessing spades, North made ten tricks, +420 and 11 Imps to USA1.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer South: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
4 ♦	?		

What would you do as North with:

- **★** 62
- **♥** AK42
- **♦** J42
- ♣ J1042
- 2. Dealer West: North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	?

What would you do as South with:

- **♠** A5
- ♥ AK5
- **♦** 643
- ♣ KJ652

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

My 60-year kindergarten reunion is coming up soon and I'm worried about the 175 pounds I've gained since then.