

# 116. The bold and the bashful

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?		2NT <sup>(1)</sup>
(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:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 954	
	♥ J2	
	♦ Q98762	
	♣ 85	
West		East
♠ 1072		♠ KQJ3
♥ Q765		♥ 843
♦ 103		♦ 54
♣ K972		♣ AJ103
	South	
	♠ A86	
	♥ AK109	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ Q64	

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 x 4, +400, 3♦ +130 x 2. Australia picked up 7 Imps for 3NT +430 vs 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♣ with just three clubs and some with only two clubs, many pairs have adopted a 2♣ overcall as natural and a 3♣ jump-overcall as intermediate, 11-14 points with 6+ clubs. To replace (1♣) : 2♣ as the Michaels Cue-Bid, pairs that want to use the 2♣ overcall as natural now play (1♣) : 2♦ as Michaels to show at least 5-5 in the majors. They are prepared to forego (1♣) : 2♦ 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

<p>West</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ 5 ♦ J953 ♣ AKQ9854</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ KJ1094 ♦ K762 ♣ 62</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ AQ97432 ♥ Q82 ♦ 108 ♣ 7</p>
	<p>South</p> <p>♠ K105 ♥ A763 ♦ AQ4 ♣ J103</p>	

England East-West:

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	4♣	1♣ All Pass

Lead: ♥A. 8 tricks. East-West -200.

USA1 East-West:

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

Lead: ♥J. 9 tricks. East-West -100.  
3 Imps to USA1.

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

China East-West:

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

(1) Transfer 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

	North	
	♠ J6	
	♥ KJ1094	
	♦ K762	
	♣ 62	
West		East
♠ 8		♠ AQ97432
♥ 5		♥ Q82
♦ J953		♦ 108
♣ AKQ9854		♣ 7
	South	
	♠ K105	
	♥ A763	
	♦ AQ4	
	♣ J103	

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.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J6	
	♥ KJ1094	
	♦ K762	
	♣ 62	
West		East
♠ 8		♠ AQ97432
♥ 5		♥ Q82
♦ J953		♦ 108
♣ AKQ9854		♣ 7
	South	
	♠ K105	
	♥ A763	
	♦ AQ4	
	♣ J103	

Venice Cup, China North-South:

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

(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.*