

130. The treatment of long suits

By Ron Klinger

You are the dealer with both sides vulnerable. What would you do with:

♠ 8
♥ Q65
♦ K2
♣ KQ87532

Today's deals are from the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams).

Bd. 7: Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ --	
	♥ AJ984	
	♦ Q8643	
	♣ A104	
West		East
♠ AKJ97654		♠ Q1032
♥ K2		♥ 1073
♦ J9		♦ A1075
♣ J		♣ 96
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ Q65	
	♦ K2	
	♣ KQ87532	

Two Souths thought that this was a suitable 3♣ opening. The other two thought there was too much strength outside clubs. Since one might open 3♣ with slightly stronger clubs (replace the two with the jack) and no outside values, partner could find it hard to place you with so much strength. So it proved at those two tables.

USA2 North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
			3♣
4♠	5♣	5♠	6♣
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gavin Wolpert led the heart ace. That gave away a trick, but the defence still collected a club and a diamond for two down, North-South +200. Note that North declined to double 6♣ after South's 3♣ opening.

Sweden North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
			2♣ ⁽¹⁾
4♠	5♣	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

(1) 10-15 points, 6+ clubs, no side suit

As 6♣ was due to make, John Kranyak did well to sacrifice in 6♠. North led the club ace and West ruffed the next club. He cashed the spade ace and ran the diamond jack to the king. South returned the heart five, king, ace, and won the next heart for three down, East-West +800 and 12 Imps to Sweden.

Bd. 7: Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North		
	♠ --		
	♥ AJ984		
	♦ Q8643		
	♣ A104		
West		East	
♠ AKJ97654		♠ Q1032	
♥ K2		♥ 1073	
♦ J9		♦ A1075	
♣ J		♣ 96	
	South		
	♠ 8		
	♥ Q65		
	♦ K2		
	♣ KQ87532		

Poland North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H.</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
4♠	4NT ⁽¹⁾	5♠	1♣
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♣

(1) Pick a contract

Jason Hackett led the spade ace against 6♣. Marcin Mazurkiewicz ruffed in dummy. The diamond three went to the king and then diamond two: jack – four – seven. West switched to the heart two: four – ten – queen. Declarer played club ace, club king and the heart six, king, ace, North-South +1370. With the heart king on side, West's heart switch was immaterial. South would have been able to set up the fifth diamond for a heart discard.

England North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
4♠	5♣	5♠	3♣
			All Pass

David Gold led the club ace against 5♠ and declarer was two down, North-South +200, but +1170 and 15 Imps to Poland. You can debit the 3♣ opening for that loss.

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 92
 ♥ A5
 ♦ 54
 ♣ AKQ10962

Bd. 15: Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 10754	
	♥ J874	
	♦ K1083	
	♣ 4	
West		East
♠ AK63		♠ QJ8
♥ Q10632		♥ K9
♦ Q96		♦ AJ72
♣ 8		♣ J753
	South	
	♠ 92	
	♥ A5	
	♦ 54	
	♣ AKQ10962	

(Directions changed for convenience)

Sweden North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>
	Pass	1♦	3NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

I showed South's hand to my wife, Suzie, and said, "East opened 1♦ and South bid 3NT! That's a real man's bid." She replied, "Yes, it is. Need I say more?"

The jump to 3NT normally includes a stopper in opener's suit. If North's pass over the double showed a diamond stopper, why didn't South pass? If not prepared to pass the double, then 3NT was probably not the best choice. If a 2♣ overcall does not appeal, one could double and bid clubs later.

Vince Demuy (W) led the spade king. John Kranyak (E) played the queen. West continued with the spade three. East won with the jack and returned the spade eight. South ruffed and played club ace, club king. Some 'solid' suits fail to live up to their description. South cashed the heart ace and East unblocked the heart king. South exited with the heart five. West took the queen and switched to the diamond queen, king, ace. East cashed the diamond jack and South had to ruff the next diamond. East still had a trump trick coming and that was three down, East-West +800.

USA2 North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>
	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
1♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble ⁽³⁾	Pass	2♦	3♣
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 2+ clubs, 11+ points

(2) 4+ hearts

(3) Takeout

Contrast Gavin Wolpert's circumspect approach as South. No gung-ho for him. And right he was, too. North led the club four against 3♦. South won with the nine and returned the club queen: diamond nine, diamond ten. North shifted to the spade four. West won with the ace and ran the diamond queen, followed by the diamond six to the jack and the diamond ace. West cashed two spades and played the heart king. South took the ace and the top clubs for one down, North-South +50, giving USA2 +850 in total for +13 Imps.

Bd. 15: Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

	North ♠ 10754 ♥ J874 ♦ K1083 ♣ 4	
West ♠ AK63 ♥ Q10632 ♦ Q96 ♣ 8		East ♠ QJ8 ♥ K9 ♦ AJ72 ♣ J753
	South ♠ 92 ♥ A5 ♦ 54 ♣ AKQ10962	

(Directions changed for convenience)

Poland North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Maz'wicz</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
	Pass	1♣	2♣
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Mazurkiewicz led the club four won by the nine. South returned the club king. West ruffed with the heart two and North discarded the diamond three. The heart three went to the king and ace and back came the club ace: heart six, heart eight. North exited with the spade four, taken by the ♠Q. Declarer cashed the heart queen, spade jack, spade ace, spade king, and threw North in with the heart ten to the heart jack. North was endplayed in diamonds and West avoided a diamond loser. That was one down, North-South +50.

England North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakshi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>
	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	3♣
Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Polish Club: balanced or long clubs or 17+ points

(2) Takeout

Gold led the club queen against 3NT and continued with the club ace, club king and club 10 (suit preference). East cashed the spade queen, crossed to the spade ace and led the diamond queen, king, ace. He played the heart nine. South took the ace and his clubs and East was three down, North-South +150, 3 Imps to England.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer South : Both vulnerable

North

♠ QJ10

♥ A94

♦ Q1084

♣ K93

East

♠ 762

♥ 87532

♦ A76

♣ 62

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
(1) 12-14 points			

West leads the ♠4: queen from dummy . . . Which spade would you play as East? Does it matter?

2. Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you lead as West from:

♠ 62

♥ A1085

♦ --

♣ Q876432

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

Advice for Seniors #4: Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.