

# 134. Supporting act

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>(5)</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>(4)</sup>
Pass	?	Pass	3NT

(1) Artificial strong

(2) Negative or waiting

(3) Game-force, balanced or 5+ hearts

(4) 5+ points, 5+ clubs

(5) 5+ hearts

What would you do as North with:

♠ 6  
♥ AKQ87  
♦ K65  
♣ AKQ6

It was certainly reasonable to show the hearts after 3♣. You have excellent support for clubs and, whether playing pairs or teams or rubber bridge, you should show the club support now. A bid of 4♣ will buy you a 4♦ cue-bid and that should be enough for you to head for slam. Partner could have as little as this and 6♣ is a decent spot:

♠ Q72  
♥ 6  
♦ A432  
♣ J9754

Today's deals come from games on BBO. At eight tables, the bidding went as above and West led the ♠2 against 3NT:

North	
♠ 6	
♥ AKQ87	
♦ K65	
♣ AKQ6	
	East
	♠ AQJ83
	♥ 43
	♦ 10972
	♣ J9

Which spade would you play as East? Suppose your high card won trick 1. What do you play at trick 2?

If partner began with four spades, you can play ♠A, ♠Q and dislodge the ♠K (assuming South has it and partner's lead was from ♠10-x-x-x). However, if you play ♠A, ♠Q and partner began with only ♠10-x-x, South can hold up the ♠K till the third round and partner has no more spades to lead to you if partner comes in later.

Best is to play the ♠J at trick 1. Maybe South takes it with the ♠K. Now if partner comes on lead later, partner can continue the suit whether partner began with 3 or 4 spades. If South ducks, continue with a low spade. Partner's ♠2 promises an honour, either the ♠10 or less likely the ♠K. Maybe South plays the ♠K now.

	North	
	♠ 6	
	♥ AKQ87	
	♦ K65	
	♣ AKQ6	
West		East
♠ K42		♠ AQJ83
♥ J109652		♥ 43
♦ 843		♦ 10972
♣ 3		♣ J9
	South	
	♠ 10975	
	♥ --	
	♦ AQJ	
	♣ 1087542	

At the eight tables where South ended in 3NT, every West led the ♠2. The defence was successful at only three tables. There East played the ♠J at trick 1 and returned the ♠3 to the ♠K. East won the third spade and took two more spade tricks, one down, East-West +100, +11.4 Imps.

At two tables, East took the ♠2 with the ♠A and returned the ♠Q. Now 3NT was unbeatable. The ♠Q won trick 2 and the ♠K took trick 3. Declarer had the rest for +630, North-South +1.3 Imps.

At one table, East took the ♠2 with the ♠A and returned the ♠J. West overtook with the ♠K. After the ♠4 to the ♠Q, South had the rest, +630, +1.3 Imps.

At one table, East played the ♠J at trick 1 (good) and continued with the ♠Q (disaster), winning. The ♠3 was won by the ♠K. Declarer had the rest, +630, +1.13 Imps.

At one table, East played the ♠A at trick 1. On the actual layout, it would still be all right if East returns the ♠3 or ♠8, but this East switched to the ♦2. South won and made 12 tricks, +690 -0.1 Imp.

At four tables, North-South reached 6♣, but only thanks to intervention spades. Three tables had this sequence:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial strong

East led the ♠A. Declarer had the rest, 12 tricks, +1370 and +9.8 Imps, a swing in excess of 21 Imps over 3NT, -100.

At the remaining table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♠	4♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial strong

Lead: ♠A. 13 tricks. +9.8 Imps.

With both sides vulnerable, partner deals and bids 1♠. Pass on your right. What would you do with:

♠ J9743  
♥ 75  
♦ 962  
♣ A63

Good news: You have spade support. Bad news: You have ten losers. A 1♠ : 2♠ raise usually has 6-9 points and 9 losers, occasionally 8 losers. You do have 6 points (one for the doubleton), but in terms of playing tricks, your 10-loser hand is below expectation for 1♠ : 2♠. If partner bids higher, do not be surprised if you are too high.

What about 1♠ : 4♠? There are two things wrong with that. The 1♥ : 4♥ and 1♠ : 4♠ gambling raises are supposed to be weak (your hand qualifies for that) with an unbalanced hand (yours is balanced) and usually 7-8 losers (10 losers is too many for 1♠ : 4♠). A typical 1♠ : 4♠ raise might be like this:

♠ J9743 ♥ 7 ♦ 62 ♣ A9763  8 losers	or	♠ K9743 ♥ -- ♦ QJ5 ♣ 87643  7 losers
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The full deal:

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North ♠ J9743 ♥ 75 ♦ 962 ♣ A63	
West ♠ -- ♥ KJ9832 ♦ 873 ♣ J752	East ♠ KQ6 ♥ A104 ♦ KJ1054 ♣ Q10	
	South ♠ A10852 ♥ Q6 ♦ AQ ♣ K984	

The cards lie well for North-South, with the ♦K inside and only one spade loser (as long as you safety-play the spades-club to the ace and low to the ♠10 or low spade from South to the ♠J; later cross to ♣A and finesse the ♠10). South has one spade loser, two heart losers and a club loser, 9 tricks, North-South +140. Had the ♦K been with West you would have only eight tricks.

At six tables, North-South bid 1♠ : 2♠, all pass, all +140. At five tables it went 1♠ : 4♠, all pass, 9 tricks, -50. At four tables:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	3♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	All Pass	

(1) Long suit trial bid in clubs

(2) Some help in clubs, but not enough with a minimum raise

Give North ♣A-x (a 1-loser holding) and that would be enough to justify 4♠ over 3♣.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J9743	
	♥ 75	
	♦ 962	
	♣ A63	
West		East
♠ --		♠ KQ6
♥ KJ9832		♥ A104
♦ 873		♦ KJ1054
♣ J752		♣ Q10
	South	
	♠ A10852	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ AQ	
	♣ K984	

At the remaining table:

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

(1) Transfer to hearts

Declarer made 9 tricks, East-West +140. That is the best reason for 1♠ : 2♠, i.e., that it might be enough to keep East-West quiet. Some play 1♠ : 3♠ = 0-5 (6) HCP and 4+ spades. The North hand qualifies for that.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1.(a) Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

What would you do now as South with:

♠ AKQJ8  
 ♥ K763  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 843

1. (b)

North  
 ♠ 763  
 ♥ A42  
 ♦ J742  
 ♣ A52

South  
 ♠ AKQJ8  
 ♥ K763  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 843

After 1♠ : 2♠, 4♠, all pass, West leads the ♣K. Plan the play.

2. (a) Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AJ1098  
♥ 93  
♦ AQJ  
♣ AQ2

2. (b)

North  
♠ K43  
♥ AKJ1065  
♦ K4  
♣ K6

South  
♠ AJ1098  
♥ 93  
♦ AQJ  
♣ AQ2

You have landed in 7NT and West leads the ♦10. Plan the play.

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

*Advice for Seniors #8: Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?*