

# 146. But that's not what happened

*By Ron Klinger*

Teams: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	1♠	1NT	Dble
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ 7643  
♥ 10875  
♦ 5  
♣ J542

Today's deals arose in a teams' match on BBO last June.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North		East
	♠ AJ102		♠ K5
	♥ 93		♥ K64
	♦ A8742		♦ KJ106
	♣ Q3		♣ AK97
West			
♠ 7643			
♥ 10875			
♦ 5			
♣ J542			
	South		
	♠ Q98		
	♥ AQJ2		
	♦ Q93		
	♣ 1086		

This was yesterday's first question:

West	North	East	South
			?

What would you do as South with:

♠ Q98  
♥ AQJ2  
♦ Q93  
♣ 1086

South has an 11-count including two unsupported queens in a 4-3-3-3 shape. Those values look good for defence. Playing standard methods and despite the favourable vulnerability, I would pass, but that's not what happened. South began with a weak 1NT and the auction went this way:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North		
	♠ AJ102		
	♥ 93		
	♦ A8742		
	♣ Q3		
West		East	
♠ 7643		♠ K5	
♥ 10875		♥ K64	
♦ 5		♦ KJ106	
♣ J542		♣ AK97	
	South		
	♠ Q98		
	♥ AQJ2		
	♦ Q93		
	♣ 1086		

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

I am not sure that East-West were on the same wavelength for their auction. North led ♠A and switched to ♥9: four – jack – five. Declarer later lost to the ♦A and two more heart tricks, one down, North-South +200.

At the other table, South did pass, as did West. North opened 1♦. This was yesterday's second question:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ K5  
♥ K64  
♦ KJ106  
♣ AK97

To me that looks like a 1NT overcall (15-18 points, balanced, stopper in opener's suit), but that's not what happened. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♥
Pass	1♠	1NT	Dble
?			

East's sequence, takeout double followed by 1NT after partner passes or replies at the one level, is generally played as 19-21 points. The East hand looks a little underweight for that, despite the strong diamonds. That brings us to today's question ([see top of previous page](#)).

The West hand figures to be useless in no-trumps. Maybe it can garner some tricks in a trump contract. West removed the double to 2♣. It went Pass : Pass and South balanced with 2♦, all pass. East led ♣K, ♣A and North ruffed the third club. After ♦4 to ♦Q and ♦3 to ♦A, North finessed successfully in hearts and unsuccessfully in spades. East cashed ♦K, ♦J and had a fourth club to cash, one off, East-West +50, +6 Imps.

This was yesterday's third question:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A  
♥ Q10  
♦ 109862  
♣ AK1087

You cannot guarantee safety for any bid that South makes. That is almost always true for any bid in a competitive auction. Still, with freak shape (10+ cards in two suits), values equivalent to an opening bid and shortage in the opponent's suit, it usually pays you to compete.

What would 2NT mean here? There is not much value in a natural 2NT bid showing 15-18 points. The opponents usually have 18+ points for their auction and so you are almost always already too high with 2NT with a combined count of 22 points and a balanced hand. There is a good case for playing 2NT here as at least 5-5 in the minors, but that is not what happened on this deal. This is certainly something worth discussing with your regular partners. If you would play 2NT here as natural, then perhaps South could find a 3♣ bid, but that's not what happened at one of the tables. This was the deal

	North	
	♠ J32	
	♥ 8642	
	♦ A74	
	♣ Q64	
West		East
♠ KQ9764		♠ 1085
♥ KJ9		♥ A753
♦ Q3		♦ KJ5
♣ J5		♣ 932
	South	
	♠ A	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ 109862	
	♣ AK1087	

At one table, 2♠ was passed out. North led the ♥4: three – queen – king. West played the ♠K, losing to the ♠A. West could have crossed to the ♥A (or played a diamond towards dummy) and played the first spade from dummy. That would have saved a trick. West lost two spades, a diamond and two clubs, but made 2♠, +110.

At the other table, South bid 3♣ over 2♠. That was passed out. West led the ♠K. South won and played the ♦A and a second diamond. East switched to the ♥3. South lost two hearts and two diamonds, but made 3♣ for +110 and +6 Imps.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ AQJ63  
♥ --  
♦ Q6  
♣ AK10972

2. Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ AKQ1076  
♥ 4  
♦ --  
♣ KJ5432

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

*When I have a headache, I take two aspirins and keep away from children, just like it says on the bottle.*