

153. Some grands are not so grand

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| | | | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2NT ⁽¹⁾ | Pass | 3♣ ⁽²⁾ |
| Pass | 3♠ ⁽³⁾ | Pass | 4♣ ⁽⁴⁾ |
| Pass | 4♦ ⁽⁴⁾ | Pass | 4♥ ⁽⁴⁾ |
| Pass | ? | | |

(1) Game-force, 4+ spades

(2) Club shortage

(3) Please start cue-bidding.

(4) Cue-bid

What would you do now as North with:

♠ AKQ9
♥ 8
♦ A84
♣ J9832

In the third quarter-final in The Major Alt, organized by bid72 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online), [GUPTA](#) (Naren Gupta, Huub Bertens, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs, Thomas Bessis, Curtis Cheek, Cedric Lorenzini, USA, #3 qualifier, 125.34 Victory Points) defeated [NICKELL](#) (Nick Nickell – Ralph Katz, Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson, Bobby Levin – Steve Weinstein, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell, USA, #5 qualifier, 119.44 VP) by 96.1-46.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ AKQ9 | |
| | ♥ 8 | |
| | ♦ A84 | |
| | ♣ J9832 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ J54 | | ♠ 6 |
| ♥ J63 | | ♥ Q10754 |
| ♦ KQ976 | | ♦ 105 |
| ♣ Q5 | | ♣ K10764 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ 108732 | |
| | ♥ AK92 | |
| | ♦ J32 | |
| | ♣ A | |

After the auction above, Nickell (N) bid 4NT, Katz (S) 5♥ (two key cards for spades, no spade queen) and North jumped to 7♠, all pass. West led the ♦K, taken by the ace. South suffered an over-ruff in clubs later and West cashed the ♦Q for two down, East-West +200. At the other table, it also began 1♠ : 2NT. After South showed a minimum opening, club shortage and heart control, North bid 4♠, all pass, ten tricks, +620 and 13 Imps to [GUPTA](#).

South has an opening hand plus, North has an opening hand plus. Neither hand has limited their values. At some point, one of the partners has to show minimum values for their bidding. Having bid 3♠ (stronger than 4♠ at that point), North should sign off in 4♠ over 4♥. With 2NT a game-force and 3♠ encouraging, North has little to spare and can bid 4♠ to leave further bidding to partner if partner is strong.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ AKQ9 | |
| | ♥ 8 | |
| | ♦ A84 | |
| | ♣ J9832 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ J54 | | ♠ 6 |
| ♥ J63 | | ♥ Q10754 |
| ♦ KQ976 | | ♦ 105 |
| ♣ Q5 | | ♣ K10764 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ 108732 | |
| | ♥ AK92 | |
| | ♦ J32 | |
| | ♣ A | |

GOLDBERG North-South bid 1♠ : 2NT (game-force, 4+ spades), 3♣ (any minimum) : 3♥ (shortage), 4♠, all pass. Very efficient. South made ten tricks, +620.

SELIGMAN North-South bid 1♠ : 2NT (game-force, 4+ spades), 3♣ (11-13 points) : 3♦ (asking for shortage), 3♠ (club shortage) : 4NT, 5♥ (2 key cards, no ♠Q) : 6♠, all pass. North might well have bid 4♠ over 3♣. West led the ♦K, ducked, and switched to a trump. South finished two down, -200, 13 Imps to **GOLDBERG**.

BIANCHI North-South began 1♠ : 2♣, 2♥ and ended in 4♠, +650.

IRELAND North-South began 1♠ : 2NT, 3♣ (minimum) and landed in 5♠. West led the ♠4, ace. Declarer crossed to the ♣A, back to the ♠A, ruffed the ♣3 and drew the last trump. Dummy's ♣J-9-8 holding against East's ♣K-10-7 allowed South to create a club trick and lose just one club and one diamond, +650, no swing.

STREET North-South had a good sequence: 1♠ : 3♥ (strong hand, an undisclosed shortage), 3♠ (which shortage?) : 4♥ (heart singleton), 4♠, all pass, ♦K lead, ten tricks, +620.

LAVAZZA North-South began 1♠ : 2♣, 2♥ and ended in 4♠, all pass. West led the ♦K. South ended with 12 tricks, +680 and +2 Imps.

This was yesterday's second problem:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 4♥ | 5♦ | Pass |
| 6♦ | Pass | Pass | ? |

What would you do as South with:

♠ QJ93
♥ 432
♦ 43
♣ 8653

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

| | | |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ 102 | |
| | ♥ KQ1098765 | |
| | ♦ 6 | |
| | ♣ A7 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ A8765 | | ♠ K4 |
| ♥ AJ | | ♥ -- |
| ♦ J85 | | ♦ AKQ10972 |
| ♣ K94 | | ♣ QJ102 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ QJ93 | |
| | ♥ 432 | |
| | ♦ 43 | |
| | ♣ 8653 | |

For **NICKELL**, after the auction above, Ralph Katz (S) bid 6♥. West doubled, all pass. Declarer lost 2 spades, a heart, a diamond and a club, four down, -800. As 6♦ was unbeatable, East-West +1370, this was a great save. At the other table, East-West had an accident:

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1♥ | Dble | 2♥ |
| 4♠ | 5♥ | 6♦ | Pass |
| 7♦ | Dble | Pass | Pass |
| 7NT | Dble | All Pass | |

North led the ♣A, North-South +200, 14 Imps to **GUPTA**. Given North's 1♥ opening and 5♥, perhaps 7♦ was imprudent. If West had passed 6♦, would North bid 6♥? We'll never know, but I would bet 'Yes'.

In **GOLDBERG** vs **SELIGMAN**, it went 4♥ : 5♦ : Pass : 6♦, all pass, at both tables, +1370, no swing. South might have contemplated bidding 6♥, but for all South knew, East-West might be cold for 7♦. Switch West's ♥A and ♣9 for North's ♠A and ♥9 and 7♦ is laydown.

STREET North-South: 4♥ : 5♦ : Pass : 6♦, all pass, East-West +1370.

LAVAZZA North-South:

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 3NT ⁽¹⁾ | 5♦ | Pass |
| 6♦ | Pass | Pass | 6♥ ⁽²⁾ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

(1) 4-level pre-empt in hearts or in spades

(2) Pass or correct

Declarer was four down, -800, but 11 Imps to **LAVAZZA**.

IRELAND North-South:

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1♥ | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♠ | 4♥ | 5♦ | All Pass |

East-West +620.

BIANCHI North-South:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 4♥ | 5♦ | Pass |
| 5♥ ⁽¹⁾ | Pass | 5♠ ⁽²⁾ | Pass |
| 6♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

(1) Strong hand, control in hearts

(2) Spade control

East-West +1370, 13 Imps to **IRELAND**

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer South : Both vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|-------|
| Pass | 3♣ ⁽¹⁾ | Pass | 1♠ |
| (1) 4+ spades, 10-12 points | | | |

What would you do now as South with:

♠ AK10643
♥ AQ4
♦ --
♣ A874

2. Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------------------|------|-------|
| Pass | 2♣ ⁽¹⁾ | ? | |
| (1) Artificial, game-force or 23+ balanced | | | |

What would you do as East with:

♠ 9
♥ 85
♦ K109654
♣ K1072

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

It's the start of a brand new day and I'm off like a herd of turtles.