

# 167. Taking your chances (in the right order)

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) 14-16 points

(2) 4-major, 5+ minor

(3) Natural, offer to play

(4) For takeout

What would you do as North with:

♠ J962  
♥ Q2  
♦ 95  
♣ AKQ95

This deal comes from the 56-board Round of 16 match between [SPECTOR](#) (Warren Spector – Gavin Wolpert, Kevin Bathurst – John Hurd, Vincent Demuy – John Kranyak) and [BASEGGIO](#) (Franco Baseggio – Andrew Stark, Dana Berkowitz – Howard Liu, C. Ganzer – Eugene Hung in the North America Online Bridge Championships (NAOBC)).

Board 20: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J962	
	♥ Q2	
	♦ 95	
	♣ AKQ95	
West		East
♠ AK7		♠ 10843
♥ A64		♥ 10
♦ A8743		♦ KQJ106
♣ 108		♣ J76
	South	
	♠ Q5	
	♥ KJ98753	
	♦ 2	
	♣ 432	

I am no fan of bidding 3-over-3 at teams, but there is a good case for 3♥ by North after the auction above. Partner was prepared to play in 2♥ opposite a singleton heart. You have ♥Q-2, nice support, indeed. You have an eminently respectable hand overall. The club suit in particular should be useful for partner.

If South plays in hearts, the defence can take two spades, a heart and a diamond. That leaves South with nine tricks.

Board 20: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J962	
	♥ Q2	
	♦ 95	
	♣ AKQ95	
West		East
♠ AK7		♠ 10843
♥ A64		♥ 10
♦ A8743		♦ KQJ106
♣ 108		♣ J76
	South	
	♠ Q5	
	♥ KJ98753	
	♦ 2	
	♣ 432	

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

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

- (1) 14-16 points
- (2) 4-major, 5+ minor
- (3) Natural, offer to play

What would you do as East with:

♠ 10843
♥ 10
♦ KQJ106
♣ J76

Your side has the balance of strength, you are short in South's long suit. That makes a takeout double look attractive. The downside of doubling is the risk that partner might pass for penalties. That fear might stop you making a lot of takeout doubles. You should not let that inhibit you. Otherwise you will lose a lot of part-score battles.

At the table, 2♥ was passed out. West led the ♠10. Wolpert (S) won with the ♣A and played the ♥Q, which held. Then came the ♥2: ♦K – ♥K – ♥A. This would have been a good time for West to play ♠K, ♠A and then switch to a diamond. Instead West played the ♦3 at trick 4. East won with the ♦10 and continued with the ♦J. South ruffed, drew the missing trump and ran the clubs for 11 tricks, +200.

At the other table, Hurd (E) did compete with a takeout double:

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

- (1) (14)15-17 points
- (2) 4-major, 5+ minor
- (3) Natural, offer to play
- (4) For takeout

North began with ♣A, ♣K, ♣Q. Bathurst (W) ruffed, drew trumps and made ten tricks, +130 and 8 Imps to SPECTOR, who won the match by 78 Imps to 65.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

North  
♠ K972  
♥ A972  
♦ Q75  
♣ 32

South  
♠ AJ3  
♥ KQ104  
♦ A86  
♣ A85

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

(1) 18-19 balanced

(2) Stayman

(3) Club stopper and at least one 4-card major

(4) Bid your major

West leads the ♣Q: two – king – five. East returns the ♣J: ace – four – three. Plan the play.

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

*Why are goods sent by ship called 'cargo' and those sent by truck are called 'shipment'?*

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email <a href="mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com">suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</a> or telephone 0411 229 705.
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