

# 201. A heartfelt decision

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) Good weak-two, 8-10 points

What would you do as South with:

♠ AK87  
♥ 1054  
♦ A82  
♣ J109

At halfway in the 28-board final of the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, Dhampur Sugar Mills (India) led New Zealand I (Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Matthew McManus – Michael Ware, James Coutts – Justin Mill) by 26-12.

In the problem above, there is a prospect for game. For example, if partner has ♥A-K-Q-x-x-x, you have nine tricks almost all of the time, if they do not lead a club or if they cannot cash more than four clubs. Partner could have the equivalent with ♥K-Q-J-x-x-x and a winner outside.

With that in mind, Nick Jacob (S) enquired with 2NT. West passed and Geo Tislevoll replied 3NT, maximum strength, no shortage. What would you do now?

Since South had no ruffing values, it looked as though nine tricks in no-trumps would be easier than ten in hearts. Of course, there was always the danger that the defence could come to five or more tricks before declarer in 3NT could come to nine, but Jacob was prepared to take that risk. He passed 3NT and it became the contract.

Board 16: Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

	North	West	North	East	South
	♠ J2		<i>Tislevoll</i>		<i>Jacob</i>
	♥ AQ9762		2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>(2)</sup>
	♦ 1074	Pass	3NT <sup>(3)</sup>	All Pass	
	♣ K8		(1) Good weak two, 8-10 points		
West		East	(2) Inquiry		
♠ Q10953		♠ 64	(3) Maximum, no short suit		
♥ J3		♥ K8			
♦ J9		♦ KQ653	West led the ♠3 and the ♠J won. South played the ♠2 to the ♠A and continued with the ♥10: jack – queen – king. East switched to the ♦3, ducked to the ♦J. South won the ♦9 return, cashed the ♠K and the hearts for nine tricks and +400.		
♣ Q432		♣ A765			
	South				
	♠ AK87				
	♥ 1054				
	♦ A82				
	♣ J109				

At the other table, North passed, East opened 1♦, Pass by South, 1♠ West, 2♥ by North, all pass.

James Coutts (E) led the ♠6, taken by the ace. After ♣J: two – eight – five, declarer played the ♥4: three – queen – king. East cashed the ♣A. The next club was ruffed by North, who cashed the ♥A. North then claimed nine tricks, losing a heart, two diamonds and a club. The gave North-South +140, but 6 Imps to New Zealand I.

The second half of the final went to New Zealand 1 by 55 Imps to 17 and the match by 67-43.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ K5

♥ KJ105

♦ QJ74

♣ KJ10

South

♠ QJ84

♥ 98

♦ A83

♣ A632

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

(1) 2+ clubs

West leads the ♠7: five – nine – queen. Plan the play.

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

*Be careful about reading the fine print. There is no way you are going to like it.*

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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