

206. Responding dilemma

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass		Pass	

(1) 3+ clubs, standard methods

What would you do as North with:

♠ K53
♥ 432
♦ Q7632
♣ 95

The textbook standard for responding to a 1-level opening is 6+ points. On that basis, you could consider passing 1♣. There can be acceptable reasons for responding with this hand: (a) You have 5 HCP, close to the textbook 6, (b) you have a 5-card suit and (c) you are short in clubs. Players also often respond with 4-5 points (and even less at favourable vulnerability) in order not to give the opponents a comfortable auction. The only requirement for bidding with values below expectation is that you are quick to apologize if things turn out badly as a result.

The second quarter-final in MontreALT, organized by bid72 and netbridge.online, was between [BARNESLEY](#) (Simon Cope, Peter Crouch, Espen Erichsen, Alexander Hydes, Richard Plackett), second with 131.49 Victory Points (5.66 VPs behind the leader) and [SWEICE](#) (Sverrir Armannsson, Jon Baldursson, Olof Bergstrom, Bjorn Fallenius, Einar Gudjohnsen, Sigurbjorn Haraldsson, Birkir Jon Jonsson, Mats Nilslund), seventh on 112.97 VPs

Board 7: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K53	
	♥ 432	
	♦ Q7632	
	♣ 95	
West		East
♠ J106		♠ 9874
♥ KQ105		♥ A986
♦ K1094		♦ J8
♣ 64		♣ J32
	South	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ J7	
	♦ A5	
	♣ AKQ1087	

With [BARNESLEY](#) North-South, it went 1♣ : Pass : Pass : Pass, the only table at which this happened. A trump was led. Declarer drew trumps, cashed the ♦A and claimed ten tricks, +130. No doubt he hoped hearts were 5-3.

At the other table, it went 1♣ : Pass : 1♦ : Pass, 3NT, all pass. West led the ♥Q (underleading), followed by the ♥5 to the ♥A. The defenders took the first four tricks. Declarer had the rest, +600 and 10 Imps to [SWEICE](#), who won the match by 62-38.1. The 3NT game is a reasonable contract at teams when vulnerable. It will make on a non-heart lead (the long hearts could be with East) if clubs behave (a bit above 70% likelihood) and about 70% of the time on a heart lead when hearts are 4-4 (32%).

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	South	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ J7	
	♦ A5	
	♣ AKQ1087	

These were the other auctions:

MACAVITY North-South

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	1♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2NT ⁽³⁾
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- (1) Artificial, strong
- (2) 0-6 points
- (3) Long, strong clubs

GUPTA North-South

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♥Q. North-South 600, no swing.

ZHAO had a complex, artificial auction and ended in 5♣, one off after a heart lead, -100. At the other table, **KOEPEL** also had an artificial auction, but played in 3NT for +600 and +12 Imps.

BLACK bid 2NT : 3NT, all pass. ♥Q lead, +600. **RED DEVILS** bid 1♣ (artificial, strong) : 1♦ (5-7 any or 7+ and 5+ hearts), 1NT (18-21 balanced, forcing to game) : 3NT, all pass. ♥Q lead, +600, no swing.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Dble ⁽¹⁾	3♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	Pass	?	

- (1) Clubs or both majors
- (2) Natural, not forcing, not invitational

What would you do as East with:

♠ AJ1095
♥ QJ875
♦ --
♣ Q62

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

People are making end of the world jokes. Like there's no tomorrow.

New book: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.