206. Responding dilemma

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	?	Pass	
(1) 3+ clubs	s, standard meth	ods	

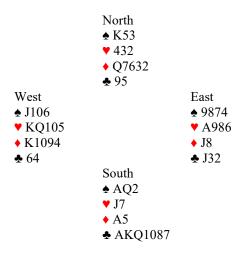
What would you do as North with:

- **♦** K53
- **4**32
- ♦ 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 BARNSLEY (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 Nilsland), seventh on 112.97 VPs

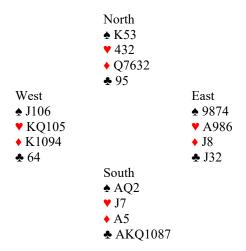
Board 7: Dealer East: Both vulnerable



With BARNSLEY 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%).

Board 7: Dealer East: Both vulnerable



These were the other auctions:

MACAVITY North-South			GUPTA	GUPTA North-South			
West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♣ ⁽¹⁾			Pass	1 ♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	$1^{(2)}$	Pass	$2NT^{(3)}$	Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass		Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Artificial, strong			Lead: 🔻	Lead: ♥Q. North-South 600, no swing.			
(2) 0-6 po	ints						

(3) Long, strong clubs

ZHAO had a complex, artificial auction and ended in 5♣, one off after a heart lead, -100. At the other table, KOEPPEL 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

Pass Pass ?

1) Clubs or both recipros

(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.