## 212. Open or pass? Overcall or pass?

## By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: North-South vulnerable

West North East South 2**\( ^**(1)

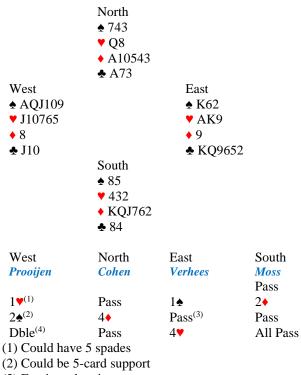
(1) Weak two, 6 diamonds, 6-10 points

What would you do as West with:

- **♠** AQJ109
- ♥ J10765
- **8**
- ♣ J10

Today's deal comes from the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Knock-Out Teams) Round of 16 match between FLEISHER and TULIN.

Board 5: Dealer South: North-South vulnerable

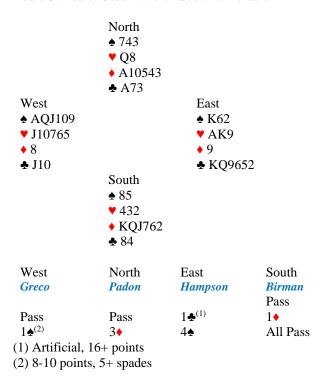


- (3) Forcing, slam interest
- (4) Do what's right, partner.

The East-West bidding is non-standard, but a sensible spot was reached. Had East passed West's double, they could have taken 4♦ doubled two down for +500.

North led the ♦A, followed by the ♦4. West ruffed with dummy's ♥9 and ditched the ♣10. After ♥A, ♥K and ♣2 to the ♣J and ♣A, West claimed 11 tricks, +450.

Board 5: Dealer South: North-South vulnerable



North led ◆A and switched to the ▼8, taken by the ace. Declarer drew trumps and played the ▼J for 11 tricks, East-West +450, no swing. Note that in 2017 neither South opened a weak 2♦. Maybe the vulnerability was a factor. That was not the case when the deal was replayed in a BBO game:

West	North	East	South
			$2^{(1)}$
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) Wastr tre		6 10 mainta	

(1) Weak two, 6 diamonds, 6-10 points

West's  $2 \triangleq$  is a bit underweight in terms of expectation for a 2-level overcall after a weak two, but if North was about to take a shot at 3NT, West wanted a spade lead. If the West hand were a bit stronger (replace the  $\checkmark$ 5 with the  $\checkmark$ A, say), West could bid  $4 \spadesuit$  over  $2 \spadesuit$  to show at least 5-5 in the majors.

Note that  $3 \triangleq$  by East over  $3 \checkmark$  would not be forcing for most partnerships. West would have no hesitation in passing it with that modest collection. North led the A and switched to the A. Declarer took the A, drew trumps and had 11 tricks, +450.

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

Dealer East: Nil vulnerable

West North East South Pass Pass

What would you do as West with:

- ♠ AJ
- **♥** AQJ9642
- **♦** 952
- ♣ A

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

Don't stay in bed, unless you can make money in bed. (George Burns, 1896-1996)

New book: *The Power of Pass* (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.