

213. Competing views

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
4♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	Pass
		Pass	?

(1) Primarily for takeout

What would you do as South with:

♠ Q942
♥ 107
♦ 864
♣ J962

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

Board 8: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K875	
	♥ 3	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ KQ1085	
West		East
♠ AJ		♠ 1063
♥ AQJ9642		♥ K85
♦ 952		♦ Q1073
♣ A		♣ 743
	South	
	♠ Q942	
	♥ 107	
	♦ 864	
	♣ J962	

West	North	East	South
<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Moss</i>
4♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Primarily for takeout

West's hand is very strong for a pre-empt, but in third or fourth seat, a pre-empt at game-level can be strong. One who makes such a bid is estimating or gambling that there is no slam their way. Here, slam could be possible opposite as little as:

♠ 7654	or no play opposite as much as	♠ 765
♥ K853		♥ K85
♦ --		♦ AK7
♣ 97432		♣ 7432

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	♦ AKJ	
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West		East
♠ AJ		♠ 1063
♥ AQJ9642		♥ K85
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♣ A		♣ 743
	South	
	♠ Q942	
	♥ 107	
	♦ 864	
	♣ J962	

	North	East	South
West	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Moss</i>
<i>Prooijen</i>		Pass	Pass
4♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Primarily for takeout

Note South's 4♠ despite the abysmally poor hand. West's double was aimed at penalties, but there's the problem with having opened 4♥. East could not believe West had such a powerful hand and ran to 5♥. North elected not to follow the maxim, 'The five-level belongs to the opponents' and bid on to 5♠. There was no doubt this time as to the intention of West's double.

West led the ♣A and switched to the ♥A, followed by the ♦5, taken by the ♦A. South wanted to reach his hand to lead a spade from there and played the ♣8 to the ♣9. West ruffed with the ♠J and reverted to the ♦2: jack – queen – four. East returned the ♣7 and West ruffed with the ♠A. That was five tricks for the defence. Declarer had the rest, but that was +500 for East-West. Meanwhile, 5♥ could be defeated as long as the defence plays a spade soon enough.

	North	East	South
West	<i>Padon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Birman</i>
<i>Greco</i>		Pass	Pass
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	2♣	Pass	3♣
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial, 16+ points

I am at a loss to know what 4NT meant. The BBO record has no alerts or explanations. In any event, North-South did the right thing and the defence collected their three tricks. North led the ♣K: three – two – ace. West played ♥Q: three – five – seven and ♥J: ♠8 – eight – ten. Then came the ♦5: king – three – six. What next?

North switched to the ♠5. If declarer happened to have ♠A-Q, there would be time to try for a club trick when North came in with the ♦A. It went ♠5: three – queen – ace. Declarer returned the ♠J. North won and cashed the ♦A for one down, North-South +100 and 12 Imps to [TULIN](#).

There should be no problem for the defence here. As North's 2♣ showed 5 clubs, South would either discourage clubs (attitude signals) or show an even number, clearly four (using count signals). Thus there would be no temptation for North to try a second club when in with the ♦K.

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West		East
♠ AJ		♠ 1063
♥ AQJ9642		♥ K85
♦ 952		♦ Q1073
♣ A		♣ 743
	South	
	♠ Q942	
	♥ 107	
	♦ 864	
	♣ J962	

This was the auction when the deal was replayed in a BBO game:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

You can understand South's reluctance to bid 4♠ with such a moth-eaten collection. Sometimes passing will pay off. This was not one of those times.

With no inkling of South's hand, North led the ♦A: seven – eight (discouraging) – five and switched to the ♣K. It would have been wise for West to draw trumps with ♥Q, ♥J and then play a diamond. Instead, West played the ♦9 at trick 3. There was no punishment for the indiscretion (such as South having started with a singleton diamond). North took the ♦K and played the ♣Q. West ruffed, drew trumps and had 11 tricks for +690.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ J72
♥ 92
♦ AKJ9876
♣ 10

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

Why is the letter W called 'double U' in English? Shouldn't it be called 'double V'?

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.