

215. Adjustment bureau

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	?	Dble	2NT

What would you do as North with:

- ♠ 104
- ♥ K10652
- ♦ K92
- ♣ J94

(Answer later)

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

Board 12: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 104		
	♥ K10652		
	♦ K92		
	♣ J94		
West		East	
♠ AJ762		♠ K983	
♥ J87		♥ A4	
♦ 108		♦ 765	
♣ 862		♣ K1073	
	South		
	♠ Q5		
	♥ Q93		
	♦ AQJ43		
	♣ AQ5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Padon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Birman</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♥

West led the ♦10, taken by the king. After ♥2, four, queen, and the ♥3: eight – ten – ace, the defence took two spade tricks. Declarer had the rest, North-South +170.

You are the dealer at unfavourable vulnerability. What do you do with:

- ♠ Q5
- ♥ Q93
- ♦ AQJ43
- ♣ AQ5

If your 1NT opening is 16-18 points or 15-18, opening 1NT is fine. If your 1NT opening is 15-17, this hand is too strong. You should add 1 point for holding a 5-card suit. When the 5-card suit is strong (has 3 or more honours), you could reasonably add 2 points to the HCP total. That makes it suitable for a 1-opening and jump in NT next.

That is what South had in mind at the other table:

Board 12: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 104		
	♥ K10652		
	♦ K92		
	♣ J94		
West		East	
♠ AJ762		♠ K983	
♥ J87		♥ A4	
♦ 108		♦ 765	
♣ 862		♣ K1073	
	South		
	♠ Q5		
	♥ Q93		
	♦ AQJ43		
	♣ AQ5		

West	North	East	South
<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Moss</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble ⁽¹⁾	2NT ⁽²⁾	Dble ⁽³⁾
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (1) Negative double, 6+ points, 4+ hearts
- (2) 4+ spades, good hand
- (3) Support double, 3 hearts
- (4) Strong hand

East led the ♠8: five – jack – ten. West cashed the ♠A: four – three – queen. As West could see no tricks coming for the defence in the minor suits, West continued with the ♠6, ruffed with the ♥2. Declarer crossed to the ♦Q and played the ♥3: seven – king – ace. North now had to lose another trump trick to West's ♥J-8. That was one down, East-West +100 and 7 Imps to [TULIN](#).

Today's problem:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	2NT
Pass	?		

Recommended for North is to show the 5-card heart suit. Some might bid 3♥, asking South to support with three hearts and to rebid 3NT with only two hearts. Others play 3♥ as showing 6+ hearts and use a 3♣ rebid over 2NT as a checkback to locate 3-card support. Either way, you would end up in 4♥. That requires you to play the hearts for one loser. Low to the ♥Q and finesse the ♥10 on the way back works.

When the deal was replayed in a BBO game, North rebid 3NT over 2NT and everyone passed. West led the ♠6 and you would think that 3NT would now be two down routinely. That is not quite what happened.

It began ♠6: four – eight – queen. Declarer crossed to the ♦K and finessed the ♣Q. Next came the ♥Q: seven – two – ace. East returned the ♠3: five – jack – ten. West brought back the ♠2: ♥5 – ♠9 – ♥3. Then followed the ♠K, which West overtook to cash the ♠7. That was one down, East-West +100. All's well that ends well.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) 18-19 balanced

(2) Artificial, checkback

(3) 5 spades

What would you do as South with:

- ♠ A104
- ♥ Q1095
- ♦ KJ2
- ♣ AKJ

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

Definition humour: A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.

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.