

217. Best auction, wrong contract

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

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

(1) 15-17 points

(2) Four hearts

(3) Natural, forcing

What would you do as North with:

♠ KQ83
♥ AQ
♦ Q
♣ AKJ852

The second semi-final in [ALT MIXED III](#), an online event organized by bid72 and netbridge.online and held on BBO, was between second qualifier, [APRICOTS](#) (France: Irene Baroni, Thomas Bessis, Pierre Franceschetti, Cedric Lorenzini, Hilda Seton, Joanna Zochowska), who had won their quarter-final by 88.1 Imps to 37, and third qualifier [DONNER](#) (USA: Per-Ola Cullin, Gary Donner, Geir Helgemo, Jessica Larson, Marion Michielsen, Cecilia Rimstedt), who had won their quarter-final narrowly, 55.1 Imps to 53.

Board 12: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ83	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ Q	
	♣ AKJ852	
West		East
♠ 1052		♠ J97
♥ J982		♥ 653
♦ 98532		♦ J107
♣ 10		♣ 9743
	South	
	♠ A64	
	♥ K1074	
	♦ AK64	
	♣ Q6	

This was yesterday's problem:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	?		
(1) 15-17 points			

What would you do as North with:

♠ KQ83
♥ AQ
♦ Q
♣ AKJ852

North for [APRICOTS](#) bid 2♣, eminently sensible to seek a spade fit. That would be particularly good if South is able to show a 5-card spade suit.

When South bid 2♥ (four hearts), as in the auction at the top of the page, North bid 3♣, natural and forcing. As 3♣ might be based on only a 5-card suit, South bid 3NT to show a doubleton club. North then jumped to 6NT. As North-South have 15 winners (16 with spades 3-3), the 6NT bid fell short of the optimal spot. The auction was fine as far as it went it just did not go far enough. North should bid 4♣ to set clubs and start cue-bidding.

Board 12: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ83	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ Q	
	♣ AKJ852	
West		East
♠ 1052		♠ J97
♥ J982		♥ 653
♦ 98532		♦ J107
♣ 10		♣ 9743
	South	
	♠ A64	
	♥ K1074	
	♦ AK64	
	♣ Q6	

This would be a good sequence:

West	North	East	South
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4♦ ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠ ⁽⁶⁾
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦ ⁽⁷⁾
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

- (1) 15-17 points
- (2) Four hearts
- (3) Natural, forcing
- (4) Sets clubs, starts cues
- (5) First-round or second-round control in diamonds
- (6) Two key cards plus the ♣Q
- (7) Shows the ♦K --- no problem if you play 6♥ over 5NT to show two kings. North still bids 7NT.

After 5NT, 6♦, North can count on 6 clubs tricks (unless they are 5-0), three diamonds once South is known to have ♦A and ♦K (as South has shown a doubleton club, South should not have ♦A-K doubleton), ♥A and 3 spades, as South has shown the ♠A.

For 6NT, [APRICOTS](#) North-South scored 1470. At the other table, [DONNER](#) North-South were not on the same wavelength, but they survived:

West	North	East	South
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	4♣ ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	4♦ ⁽⁶⁾
Pass	4♥ ⁽⁷⁾	Pass	4♠ ⁽⁷⁾
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ ⁽⁸⁾
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

- (1) 15-17
- (2) 4 hearts
- (3) Asking
- (4) 4 or 5 diamonds
- (5) Intended as natural, taken as a cue-bid for diamonds
- (6) Understood by West as a cue for clubs, intended as setting diamonds and too strong to cue
- (7) Cue-bid
- (8) 0 or 3 key cards. Now North realizes that they are at odds as to which suit is trumps and sensibly bids to the best spot. [DONNER](#) +2220 and +13 Imps. [DONNER](#) won Set 1 by 57-1, lost Set 2 33-17, but won by 74-34.1

Board 12: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ83	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ Q	
	♣ AKJ852	
West		East
♠ 1052		♠ J97
♥ J982		♥ 653
♦ 98532		♦ J107
♣ 10		♣ 9743
	South	
	♠ A64	
	♥ K1074	
	♦ AK64	
	♣ Q6	

There was far less science in the other semi-final:

North
♠ KQ83
♥ AQ
♦ Q
♣ AKJ852

South
♠ AJ4
♥ K743
♦ AK64
♣ 63

North
♠ KQ83
♥ AQ
♦ Q
♣ AKJ852

South
♠ J1042
♥ KJ10
♦ AKJ
♣ Q103

MAGIC CREATURES North-South bid 1NT: 4♣ (ace ask), 4♠ (two): 7NT, all pass. That worked out all right, but it might not have been such a good spot if the North-South hands were as shown. Here 7NT requires the clubs to come in or a squeeze for the 13th trick.

ZORLU North-South bid 1NT: Pass : 7NT, all pass. No frills there. Both sides made 13 tricks of course no swing. Jumping straight to 7NT might not have been so good if South had only one ace, for example, see the North-South hands on the left. Sure, there would be 13 tricks available if South had four cards in one of the red suits as long as the opponents do not cash the ♠A first, but if South did have this 4-3-3-3 pattern, there is no salvation for South even if the opening lead is not a spade. There is every reason to check on aces rather than just punt 7NT.

I would have said '7NT is a macho bid' except that 7NT was bid by the distaff member of the partnership. Can 'macho bid' also be feminine?

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer South: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥ ⁽¹⁾ (1) 4+ hearts	?		Pass

What would you do as North with:

♠ J75
♥ 9
♦ 9
♣ AKQJ10874

2. Dealer South: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦ ⁽¹⁾ (1) 3+ diamonds	1NT	?	Pass

What would you do as East with:

♠ 106
♥ 108762
♦ AQ432
♣ 5

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

Punctuation humour: A question mark walks into a bar?

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (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.
