

# 218. Red suit dilemma

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	?	4NT <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) 4+ hearts

(2) Asking partner to bid 3NT with a heart stopper

(3) To play

What would you do as East with:

♠ 106  
♥ 108762  
♦ AQ432  
♣ 5

The 32-board final in [ALT MIXED III](#), an online event organized by bid72 and netbridge.online and held on BBO, was between second qualifier, [DONNER](#) (USA: Per-Ola Cullin, Gary Donner, Geir Helgemo, Jessica Larson, Marion Michielsen, Cecilia Rimstedt) and seventh qualifier [ZORLU](#) (Turkey: Asli Acar, Sedat Aluf, Tuna Aluf, Ilker Ayaz, Namik Kokten, Sirma Sanus, Nafiz Zorlu).

Board 1: Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

	North		This was yesterday's first problem:			
	♠ J75		Dealer South:	Nil vulnerable		
	♥ 9		West	North	East	South
	♦ 9					Pass
	♣ AKQJ10874					
West		East	1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	?		
♠ AQ32		♠ 106	(1) 4+ hearts			
♥ KQ53		♥ 108762				
♦ K65		♦ AQ432				
♣ 63		♣ 5				
	South					
	♠ K984		♠ J75			
	♥ AJ4		♥ 9			
	♦ J1087		♦ 9			
	♣ 92		♣ AKQJ10874			

To me, this looks like a 2♣ overcall. It is too good for a weak jump-overcall or a pre-emptive 4♣. You could talk me into an intermediate 3♣ jump-overcall. To jump to 5♣ is too great a risk. What appeals about 2♣ is that you might still reach 3NT.

None of those appealed to North for [ZORLU](#). The choice was 3♥ as in the auction at the top of the page. The 3♥ bid says, 'Please bid 3NT if you have a stopper in hearts. I can supply the rest of the tricks.'. What North needs is a bid which says, 'Please bid 3NT if you have spades, hearts and diamonds stopped.'

Still, you can see what North had in mind. South did bid 3NT. Had East passed and had 3NT become the contract and had West led the ♥K, South would have had nine tricks.

Things did not go that way as you saw above. East bid 4♥ and South bid 4NT. If this had become the contract and if West had cashed the ♠A and then switched to a heart, South would have had ten tricks. On the other hand, if West had led a diamond, the defence can take three diamonds and two spades to take 4NT two down.

However, after the auction at the top of the page, East for [DONNER](#) bid 5♥. South doubled, all pass.

Board 1: Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J75	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 9	
	♣ AKQJ10874	
West		East
♠ AQ32		♠ 106
♥ KQ53		♥ 108762
♦ K65		♦ AQ432
♣ 63		♣ 5
	South	
	♠ K984	
	♥ AJ4	
	♦ J1087	
	♣ 92	

Against West's 5♥ doubled, North led the ♣K and switched to the ♦9, won by the ♦Q. Declarer played the ♥6. South took the ♥A and switched to the ♣9, ruffed in dummy with the ♥7. After the ♠6 to the ♠Q won, declarer drew trumps and had 11 tricks by setting up the diamonds with one ruff, East-West +650.

This was yesterday's second problem, which arose on the same deal:

Dealer South: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	1NT	?	
(1) 3+ diamonds			

What would you do as East with:

♠ 106  
♥ 108762  
♦ AQ432  
♣ 5

One option is to bid 2♥, although the hearts are underweight for the usual 2♥ bid after a 1NT overcall. The 2♥ bid is not forcing. It denies the values to double 1NT. What makes the 2♥ bid acceptable here with such a poor suit is the excellent support for diamonds. If opener can raise hearts, good. If you are doubled for penalties, you have an easy escape to 3♦. If 2♥ is passed out and that is a poor result for you, you can blame me. Bidding 2♥ would have worked on the actual deal, but that is not what East for [ZORLU](#) chose:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	1NT	3♦	3NT
Pass	4♣	4♦	All Pass
(1) 3+ diamonds			

It is no use asking me what 1NT was intended to mean. It was not alerted. I suspect it was simply a psyche (a bluff). South certainly took it as 15-18 balanced. The defence can take 3NT one down and 4♣ can be defeated if East leads a spade or the ♦A and switches to spades. Against 4♦ North led the ♥9. South took the ♥A and returned the ♥J (suit-preference for spades). North ruffed, cashed the ♣A and switched to the ♠5. Declarer had an unavoidable diamond loser. That meant 4♦ was one down, -50 and 12 Imps to [DONNER](#).

[DONNER](#) won Session 1 by 24-16 and Session 2 by 46-36 to win the final by 70-52.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 4+ hearts, 9-11 points

What would you lead as West from:

♠ A5  
♥ Q108  
♦ AJ862  
♣ Q64

As you have no attractive lead, you try to find the one that is least repulsive. Suppose you have chosen the ♠A lead. This is what you see:

	North
	♠ KJ1083
	♥ J763
	♦ K10
	♣ J9
West	
♠ A5	
♥ Q108	
♦ AJ862	
♣ Q64	

It goes ♠A: three – two – four. What next?

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

*Descriptive definition humour: A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.*

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 <a href="mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com">suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</a> or telephone 0411 229 705.
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