226. Competitive action

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

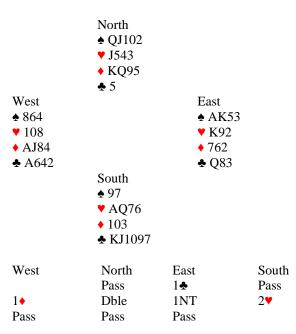
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	?		

What would you do as North with:

- **♦** QJ102
- **♥** J543
- ♦ KQ95
- **♣** 5

Today's deal come from Session 2 of the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Teams) quarter-final match between DIAMOND and PIEDRA.

Board 16: Dealer North: North-South vulnerable



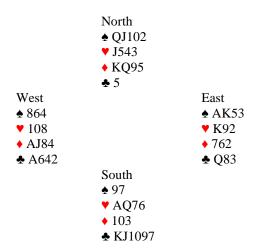
This seemed a sensible auction. West led the $\clubsuit 6$: queen – king – seven. East cashed the $\clubsuit A$: nine – eight – two and switched to the $\spadesuit 7$: ten – ace – five. West cashed the $\clubsuit A$, followed by the $\spadesuit 4$, king. Declarer finessed the $\blacktriangledown Q$, cashed the $\blacktriangledown A$ and claimed eight tricks, losing two spades and one trick in each of the other suits, North-South +110.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South	What would you do next as South with:
	Pass	1♣	Pass	◆ 97
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass	♥ AQ76
Pass	2 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥	♦ 103
Pass	Pass	3♦	?	♣ KJ1097
(1) Takeout,	, both majors			

Board 16: Dealer North: North-South vulnerable



In the Spingold:

West	North	East	South
Fergani	Brogeland	Pollack	Lindqvist
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥?
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Talanas 1	41		

(1) Takeout, both majors

At teams, most of the time it does not pay to compete 3-over-3 unless you are very confident of success or you have enough to invite game. Here South had no strong reason to bid 3. Partner was a passed hand. That means North-South figured to have at most 20 points, probably less as North took no action over West's 1. Passing 3. would have been a better choice.

What would have happened if 3♦ had been passed out? North would lead the ♠Q. West is likely to lose a spade, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. That would be three down.

Personally, I liked North's Double over 1♦ in the auction on the previous page rather than North's pass over 1♦ and 2♣ back in later, as above. East's 3♦ is no thing of beauty, but when the opposition have a trump fit, it pays to try to jockey them out of the relative safety of the 2-level into the jeopardy of the 3-level. Not vulnerable, East has a stronger case for 3♦ than South has for 3♥ when vulnerable.

West led the \P 8: three – two – queen. As happened when South played $2\P$, declarer lost two spades, a heart, a diamond and a club, but here that was one down, East-West +100.

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Piedra	Platnick	Igla
	Pass	1 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Playing a	strong 1♣ syst	tem	

I am not sure about the wisdom of the $2\clubsuit$ overcall when vulnerable against not vulnerable and facing a passed partner, but South does have 10 HCP and the clubs are strong. It is hard to see how North-South could play in $2\blacktriangledown$ after the $2\clubsuit$ overcall. Most would play $2\spadesuit$ by North as a strong club raise. Even if North did bid $2\spadesuit$ and South bid $2\blacktriangledown$, North could hardly pass that.

West led the ♥10: three – two – queen. South led the ♦10. West took the ♦A and reverted to the ♥8: four – nine – ace. Declarer played ♦K, •Q, pitching a spade. Declarer lost six tricks, –200 and 3 Imps to DIAMOND.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

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

Do you agree with South's 1• opening? What would you do now as South with:

- **◆** 932
- **♥** Q
- ♦ AQ983
- ♣ J532

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

Demonstrative definition humour: A figure of speech literally walks into a bar and ends up getting figuratively hammered.