230. Your suit or another?

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East 1♥	South 1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) 15-18 points			

What would you lead as West from:

v 10

♦ Q97

♣ J109653

This problem comes from the excellent *Winning Notrump Leads*, by David Bird and Taf Anthias. In the 'Beats Contract' results, the ♥10 scored 15.7% and the ♣J 15.5%.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1•	$1NT^{(1)}$
Pass	2♣	Pass	2¢ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) 15-18 points			
(2) No major			

What would you lead as West from:

- ▲ J62
 ♥ 432
 ♦ 9
- **♣** J98654

The problem is different from the Bird-Anthias one: (a) the clubs are weaker (b) partner's $1 \diamond$ does not promise the length that is shown by $1 \checkmark$, (c) your hand here has no prospect of an outside entry compared to the $\diamond Q$ possibility in the first problem, and (d) the bidding is more tell-tale here after the use of $2 \Rightarrow$ Stayman,

For the club lead to work you need one of these layouts:

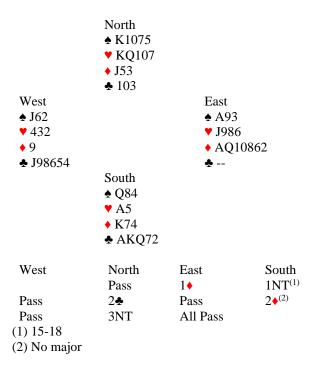
	North	or		North	or		North	
	♣ Q2/72			🜲 K7			♣ K/Q	
West		East	West		East	West		East
♣ J98654		🜲 AK3	♣ J98654		♣ AQ3	♣ J98654		♣ AQ3/AK3
	South			South			South	
	♣ 107/Q10			♣ 102			♣ 1072	

Within the realms of the hands that South might hold, the above layouts would be rarities. The North-South bidding is also helpful. South has no 4-card major. For South to have only 2 clubs, South would need to have a 3-3-5-2 pattern or, less likely, 3-2-6-2 / 2-3-6-2.

Bird-Anthias had this to say: 'When you hold a singleton in partner's suit, you need a fairly strong sequence to justify leading something different.' I would add that you also should have some prospect of an outside entry.

This deal arose in a match on BBO:

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable



West led the 4: ten - 2 - 2. After 5: three - queen - six, South played the 4: two - ten - ace. East returned a spade to dummy's 4K, declarer played the 3 to the K and had 11 tricks, +460.

At the other table, the auction differed, but substantially the same information was revealed as far as South's major suits were concerned:

West	North	East	South	
	Pass	1♦	$1NT^{(1)}$	
Pass	2 * ⁽²⁾	Pass	$2NT^{(3)}$	
Pass	3 ♣ ⁽²⁾	All Pass	3NT ⁽⁴⁾	
Pass	Pass	Pass		
(1) 15-18				
(2) Asking				
(3) Maximum	, no 5-card m	ajor		

(4) No 4-card major, not 4-3-3-3

West led the $\diamond 9$: jack – queen – four. East continued with the $\diamond A$ and $\diamond 10$ (suit-preference for spades). South cashed the $\bigstar A$, $\bigstar K$, $\bigstar Q$, $\forall A$, $\forall K$, $\forall Q$ and the defence had the rest, two down, East-West +100 and +11 Imps.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South	What would you do as North with:
			1♥	▲ AJ10432
2*	2♠	Pass	2NT	♥ 86
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	♦ AK976
Pass	?			\$

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

A dyslexic walks into a bra.