

230. Your suit or another?

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

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

What would you lead as West from:

♠ 853
♥ 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	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♦ does not promise the length that is shown by 1♥, (c) your hand here has no prospect of an outside entry compared to the ♦Q possibility in the first problem, and (d) the bidding is more tell-tale here after the use of 2♣ 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

	North		
	♠ K1075		
	♥ KQ107		
	♦ J53		
	♣ 103		
West		East	
♠ J62		♠ A93	
♥ 432		♥ J986	
♦ 9		♦ AQ10862	
♣ J98654		♣ --	
	South		
	♠ Q84		
	♥ A5		
	♦ K74		
	♣ AKQ72		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) 15-18

(2) No major

West led the ♣6: ten – ♦2 – ♣2. After ♠5: three – queen – six, South played the ♠4: two – ten – ace. East returned a spade to dummy's ♠K, 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:

	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 major

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

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

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	East	South	
			1♥	What would you do as North with:
2♣	2♠	Pass	2NT	♠ AJ10432
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	♥ 86
Pass	?			♦ AK976
				♣ --

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

A dyslexic walks into a bra.