

# 242. Fancy passing

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	?		2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>

- (1) Artificial, very strong, almost always game-forcing
- (2) Weak jump-overcall

What would you do as North with:

♠ 854  
♥ 72  
♦ --  
♣ AQJ108432

The deal arose in the USA's 2018 Open Team Selection:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 854	
	♥ 72	
	♦ --	
	♣ AQJ108432	
West		East
♠ Q7		♠ 10963
♥ 10543		♥ 986
♦ QJ109876		♦ K543
♣ --		♣ 65
	South	
	♠ AKJ2	
	♥ AKQJ	
	♦ A2	
	♣ K97	

After the auction above (2♣ South : 3♦ by West), I would have thought a 4♣ bid was automatic. Shows how little I know. North passed! The result, however, was not what North would have wanted.

West	North	East	South
3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass?	4♦	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	5♦? <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	Dble
Pass	6♠	All Pass	6♥

- (1) Artificial, very strong, almost always game-forcing
- (2) Weak jump-overcall
- (3) Cue-bid, trying to catch up

East led the ♦4: two – nine – ♠4. Declarer finessed the ♠J, losing to the ♠Q. There was a second spade loser, East-West +100. How embarrassing for North. At the other table, North-South were in 7♣, +2140 and +19 Imps.

In other matches, one North-South pair were in 7♣, +2140, the other in 7NT +2220, +2 Imps. In another match, the board was flat at 7NT +2220 at each table. The auctions were brief: 2♣ : Pass : 3♣ : Pass, 7NT, all pass and 2♣ : 2♦ : 3♣ : 3♦, 7NT, all pass.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ AQ84  
♥ Q6  
♦ Q2  
♣ J10654

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

*So much to do, so little desire to do it.*