

258. Sexist comments

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♠	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ K93
♥ Q1084
♦ J1094
♣ A8

Suppose it had started:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥ ⁽¹⁾	?		

(1) 4+ spades

What would you do now with the North hand?

Let me see if I have got this right. Partner has made a takeout double and I have 10 HCP as a passed hand, plus, say, 1 point for the doubleton and, not surprisingly for these values, an 8-loser hand. Partner is expected to have a 7-loser hand for the takeout double. So, my 8 + partner's 7 = 15 and 24 - 15 = 9 tricks expected. That sounds like I should be making a jump-bid in hearts, inviting game if partner has extra values or extra shape, yet some could muster no more than a measly minimum bid.

In the Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams), neither North in the above situations bid 3♥. One bid 2♥ over 2♠. That is a puny effort and usually reserved for hands with 6-9 points and 9 losers. The other, after West bid 1♥ showing spades, simply doubled to show hearts. That also did not come close to expressing North's values. If you cannot bring yourself to jump to 3♥, then at least bid 2♣, showing a maximum pass and then bid the hearts next or raise if partner bids hearts.

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	?

What would do as South with:

♠ J105
♥ AJ75
♦ AQ5
♣ QJ9

As indicated above, two Souths doubled. That also looks like an underbid when the hand fits the requirements for a 1NT overcall (15-18 points, balanced hand, stopper in the suit opened). What is so frightening for these South players? Clearly there is something here that I cannot fathom, but then they are the ones in the World Open Teams' semi-finals.

Bd. 65: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

North	
♠ K93	
♥ Q1084	
♦ J1094	
♣ A8	
West	East
♠ Q8742	♠ A6
♥ 92	♥ K63
♦ K62	♦ 873
♣ 432	♣ K10765
South	
♠ J105	
♥ AJ75	
♦ AQ5	
♣ QJ9	

USA 2 North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Warne</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3NT!
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Inquiry

(2) Minimum with four hearts

Buoyed by his tens and nines (and a strong 1♣ system), Kranyak opened 1♦. It is becoming increasingly difficult to appreciate the new bridge with an old bridge mind. None of the other Norths in the Bermuda Bowl opened. Still, there is nothing wrong with reaching game with a combined 25-count and a fitted suit. Since South chose 3NT anyway, South might have bid 3NT over 2♥ and asked North to choose between 3NT and 4♥. North would have passed 3NT.

West led the ♠4: three – ace – five and East switched to the ♣6, queen. After the ♠J, winning, and the ♠10 to the king, declarer played the ♥Q, king, ace and had nine tricks, +400.

Sweden North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♠	2♥	All Pass	

You have already seen my comments on the double and North's 2♥. East led the ♠6 (shades of yesterday's Daily Column): five – eight – nine. Declarer made ten tricks, +170, but 6 Imps to USA2.

England North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nowaszki</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥ ⁽¹⁾	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 4+ spades

North might have raised 2♥ to 3♥. West led the ♣3. Declarer took the ♣A, played the ♥Q, king, ace and drew trumps. He made 10 tricks, losing a diamond, a club and a spade, North-South +170.

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♠ J105	
♥ AJ75	
♦ AQ5	
♣ QJ9	

Poland North-South had a rare auction in the modern era. It was a standard Pass : 1NT, 2♣ : 2♥, 4♥, all pass! I wish it had a happy ending, but that did not happen. David Gold (W) led the ♥2: ten – three – five. The ♥Q won trick 2, followed by the ♥4: king – ace – ♠7. Had Michal Klukowski tackled spades next, he would have succeeded, but he chose the club finesse instead. East won and switched to the ♦3, queen, king. West put the ♠4 on the table and declarer had to divine the position. He could discard a spade from hand or one from dummy and so he had to pick the location of the spade honours. East had shown up with the ♥K and the ♣K. If he had the ♠A as well, he might have opened in third seat (as Wooldridge and Nowosadzki had done). Klukowski therefore placed the ♠A on this left and went up with the spade king. One off, East-West +50, 6 Imps to England.

Venice Cup (World Women’s Teams), Netherlands North-South

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♠	2♠! ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥!	All Pass	

(1) Maximum pass

West led the ♣2: eight – king – nine. East switched to the ♦8: five – king – four. West switched to the ♠2: three – ace – five. East returned the ♠6: ten – four – nine. After ♣Q to the ♠A and ♥Q, king, ace, South had 10 tricks for +420.

USA2 North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT!
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A description that appears occasionally is ‘That’s a real man’s bid!’ Given the evidence from the Open auctions and the two sequences above, perhaps that should now be changed to ‘That’s a real woman’s bid!’.

West led the ♣2, eight, king and East shifted to the ♦7, queen, king. West returned the ♦6, taken by the ♦J. Declarer ran the ♥10 and picked up the hearts, followed by ♠J: eight – three – ace, 10 tricks, +420, no swing.

The auctions in the other Women’s semi-final again showed the Open players how it is done:

England North-South

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the ♣2, ace. Declarer played ♥10 and ♥Q, winning, and finessed in diamonds, losing. West switched to the ♠2: three – ace – five. South made ten tricks, +420.

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♣ 432	♣ K10765
South	
♠ J105	
♥ AJ75	
♦ AQ5	
♣ QJ9	

France North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♠ (4 hearts)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♦7, queen, king. West returned the ♣3, ace. Declarer ran the ♥10, finessed the ♥J and cashed the ♥A. Even though South had passed here, West finessed the ♠9 and made 10 tricks, +420, no swing.

In the D'Orsi Trophy (World Seniors' Teams), with Sweden North-South, it went Pass : Pass : 1♣ : Double, 1♠ : 2♥, all pass. East led the ♠A. North made ten tricks, +170.

Poland North-South: Pass : Pass : 1♦ : 1NT, Pass : 2♣ : Double : 2♥, Pass : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♣2. The play followed similar lines to the previous ones (♣A, heart finesses). Declarer picked the spades, 10 tricks, +420 and 6 Imps to Poland.

USA1 North-South: Pass : Pass : 1♦ : 1NT, Pass : 2♣ : Pass : 2♥, Pass : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♣2. Declarer made ten tricks, North-South +420.

With USA2 North-South it began Pass : Pass : 1♣ : 1NT and also ended in 4♥, 10 tricks, +420, no swing.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

North
♠ AK10543
♥ K4
♦ A7
♣ J72
South
♠ Q
♥ Q2
♦ KQJ863
♣ AQ94

South is in 6♦ with no opposition bidding. West leads the ♥J: four – ace – two and East returns the ♥3, won by the king. How would you plan the play?

Decide before the next question.

Suppose you knew that West had the ♣K. How would you plan the play now?

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

Never argue with your bridge partner. Simply explain why you are right.

A great gift: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.