

## 265. Trumps versus no-trumps II

*By Ron Klinger*

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

North  
♠ Q95  
♥ A73  
♦ AJ95  
♣ K32

East  
♠ K8  
♥ Q9642  
♦ K6432  
♣ 9

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong hand, denies 4 spades

West leads the ♥J: ace – four – five. South played the ♣2: nine – ace – six and the ♦Q: eight – five – king.

*What do you play at trick 4?*

This was yesterday's problem:

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

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

(1) Strong hand, denies 4 spades

What would you do as South with:

♠ A42  
♥ K5  
♦ Q107  
♣ A10754

Partner has opened the bidding in second seat. You have 13 points.

*What does that suggest?*

You figure to have the values for game.

*Which game?*

Your hand is balanced. You have a stopper in hearts. That indicates a 3NT rebid.

*Isn't that risky?*

You have only one stopper in hearts. They might lead a heart and knock out your ♥K. They might regain the lead early on and cash four more hearts. You have failed.

Sure, it's risky. So? Bridge is inherently a risk-taking game. That is one of the reasons we love it. The question is, are you prepared to take the risk? Experts know which risks to take, even when they court disaster. If you cannot take the heat, stay out of the hot tub.

The deal arose in the final of a Sydney teams' event in 2018:

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ Q95	
	♥ A73	
	♦ AJ95	
	♣ K32	
West		East
♠ J10763		♠ K8
♥ J108		♥ Q9642
♦ 8		♦ K6432
♣ QJ86		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ A42	
	♥ K5	
	♦ Q107	
	♣ A10754	

At one table, with East-West silent, it went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT (forcing)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Artificial, any minimum opening

West led the ♥J: three – two (low-like) – five and the ♥10: seven – four – king. Declarer played ♣K and ♣A, East discarding ♦6. Next came the ♦10: eight – five – king. East returned the ♥Q: ♠2 – ♥8 – ♥A. Declarer lost a club to West, who switched to the ♠10: queen – king – ace. Declarer had only eight tricks, –100. Double dummy, 3NT can be made, but declarer's line was certainly reasonable.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong hand, denies 4 spades

Recommended for South is a 3NT rebid. South took a different view. Had South bid 2♣ (game-force) initially, 4♣ would have been forcing. Here it was inviting game.

West led the ♥J, ace. Declarer crossed to the ♣A and played the ♦Q: eight – five – king. What should East do now (the problem at the top of page 3)?

East thought it was a good idea to switch to the ♠K. It wasn't. No doubt East feared that declarer would be able to draw trumps and discard spade losers on dummy's diamonds. He therefore played West for the ♠A. South took the ♠A and played the ♣4, eight, king, followed by the ♦9 to the ♦10. West ruffed with the ♣J, cashed the ♣Q and played the ♠J, taken by the ♠Q. Declarer's spade loser went away on dummy's fourth diamond. South lost two clubs and a diamond and had ten tricks, +130 and +6 Imps.

The 4♣ contract could have been defeated, of course. If East plays a diamond or a heart when in with the ♦K, South has a spade loser later. If the 'Last Opportunity Rule' applies, then West takes the bulk of the blame. After ♠K to the ♠A, ♣4 to the ♣K and the ♦9 to the ♦10, ruffed by West, it should not have been difficult for West to play the ♠J. That knocks out the ♠Q and sets up the ♠10 for West to cash after ruffing the next diamond. There was no strong case for playing the ♣Q after winning with the ♣J.

Incidentally, you do want to be in 3NT. You cannot be fearful because you have only one stopper. South has a stopper and North has a stopper. Had the ♦K been onside, 3NT would have made. It wasn't? Bad luck.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ J103

♥ Q9

♦ J976

♣ AK108

South

♠ AQ9854

♥ K85

♦ A1043

♣ --

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Inviting game

West leads the ♥6: nine – ace – five. East switches to the ♦Q: ace – two (low-like) – six. Plan the play.

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

*You do not need a parachute to skydive. You need a parachute only if you want to skydive again.*

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](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) or telephone 0411 229 705.