

303. Third-seat strategy

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ 84
♥ AJ965
♦ AJ97
♣ 107

Today's deal comes from the [LAVAZZA](#) vs [ROSENTHAL](#) quarter-final match in the 2017 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams):

Board 50: Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 84	
	♥ AJ965	
	♦ AJ97	
	♣ 107	
West		East
♠ AJ96		♠ K73
♥ 7		♥ K10832
♦ 82		♦ Q543
♣ Q98542		♣ A
	South	
	♠ Q1052	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ K106	
	♣ KJ63	

This was yesterday's question:

With both sides vulnerable, there are two passes to you. What would you do with:

♠ 84
♥ AJ965
♦ AJ97
♣ 107

Both Norths opened 1♥ in third seat. Both Easts passed. Both Souths responded 1♠. Pass by West. What next?

The recommended approach if you open light in third seat is not take another bid if partner's bid is not forcing. Hence David Berkowitz, North for [ROSENTHAL](#), passed and 1♠ became the contract.

West led the ♣4: seven – ace – three. East switched to the ♦3: six – eight – nine. Bob Hamman (S) played the ♣10: ♥3 – ♣K – ♣2 and the ♦K, followed by the ♦10: ♥7 – ♦A – ♦5. After ♠4: three – ten – jack, West returned the ♣8: ♦J – ♠7 – ♣J. East cashed the ♠K and played the ♦Q: ♠6 – ♣5 – ♥5. Then came the ♥2. West ruffed with the ♠9 and cashed the ♠A. Declarer made one spade, one heart, three diamonds and a club, one light, giving East-West +100.

Board 50: Dealer South : Both vulnerable

<p>North</p> <p>♠ 84</p> <p>♥ AJ965</p> <p>♦ AJ97</p> <p>♣ 107</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ K73</p> <p>♥ K10832</p> <p>♦ Q543</p> <p>♣ A</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ AJ96</p> <p>♥ 7</p> <p>♦ 82</p> <p>♣ Q98542</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ Q1052</p> <p>♥ Q4</p> <p>♦ K106</p> <p>♣ KJ63</p>

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT

The reason to pass after 1♥ : 1♠ is the fear that partner will do too much. That did not inhibit Dennis Bilde, North for [ROSENTHAL](#). He did not fancy 1♠ and elected to try to find a better spot. He was prepared to risk the consequences.

West led the ♣5: seven – ace – six. East switched to the ♠7: ten – jack – four. West shifted to the ♥7: five – three – queen. South returned the ♥4: ♣9 – ♥A – ♥2 and ran the ♣10 to the ♣Q. This was now the position:

<p>North</p> <p>♠ 8</p> <p>♥ J96</p> <p>♦ AJ97</p> <p>♣</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ K3</p> <p>♥ K108</p> <p>♦ Q43</p> <p>♣</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ A96</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ 82</p> <p>♣ 842</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ Q52</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ K106</p> <p>♣ KJ</p>

The defenders have taken three tricks (♣A, ♠J and ♣Q). A spade to the king, the ♥K cashed and a spade return would give East-West seven tricks. A club from West is also safe. South has scored 2 hearts only so far. A club would give South 2 club tricks, but with no entry in dummy outside diamonds, South could make only three diamond tricks for one down.

West switched to the ♦8: jack – queen – king and South had 4 diamond tricks, 2 hearts and 2 clubs, +120 and 6 Imps to [ROSENTHAL](#). Where did the defence go wrong? West placed South with ♠K-Q-10-x and with ♣K-J and ♥Q as well, East figured to have K-Q-x in diamonds. Why did West go wrong? Because East switched to the *seven* of spades at trick two. A high-card switch shows no interest. Had East switched to the ♠3, low-like, West would have had a better chance to do the right thing.

Had West played a spade at trick 7 for +200 and +3 Imps, passing 1♠ (–100) would have been the better choice.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ KQ976
♥ 10
♦ 102
♣ A8632

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

Wouldn't you rather look back on your life and say, 'I can't believe I did that' instead of saying, 'I wish I had done that'?