309. Not in the textbooks

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: North-South vulnerable

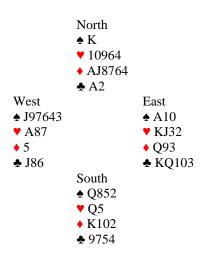
West North East South 3^{\bullet} Dble ? (1) Could be very weak

What would you do as East with:

- **♠** A10
- **♥** KJ32
- ♦ Q93
- ♣ KQ103

Today's deal comes from the final of the 2020 Australian National Open Teams.

Board 18: Dealer West: North-South vulnerable



This was yesterday's question:

Dealer West: North-South vulnerable

West North East South $3 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}^{(1)}$? (1) Could be very weak

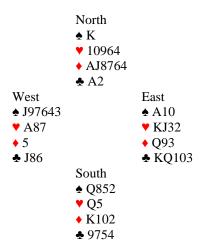
What would you do as North with:

♠ K
▼ 10964 **♦** AJ8764 **♣** A2

You are unlikely to find West's 3♠ with that suit length and quality and overcall values in any textbook, but such is the way of life in modern times at favourable vulnerability.

After a 3-level pre-empt, the textbook recommendation for action is an opening hand with about 6 losers. The North hand does just qualify for an opening bid (1♦), but after the 3♠ opening, the value of the ♠K becomes dubious. In addition, North has 7 losers, one trick worse than the 6 losers advocated. Nevertheless, in the 2020 NOT final, both Wests opened 3♠ and both Norths doubled.

Board 18: Dealer West: North-South vulnerable



DON East-West:

West	North	East	South
3♠	Dble	4	All Pass

North cashed the \triangle A and switched to the \forall 10: two – five – ace. West played the \triangle 3: king – ace – two and the \triangle 10: queen – four – \triangle 4. South switched to the \triangle K. West ruffed the next, diamond, drew trumps and pitched a heart on dummy's fourth club, +420.

East-West were a little lucky here. Given North's takeout double of 34, South will often have 4K-Q-x or even 4K-Q-x-x. In that case, declarer would lose two spades and the minor suit aces, one down and -50.

East's action at the other table is preferable and, although it produced only a small gain here, a lot of the time it would yield a double-figure swing.

West	North	East	South
3♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dhle	All Pace

Andy Hung (W) led the ♥7. Nabil Edgtton (E) won with the ♥K and returned the ♥2. West took the ♥A and shifted to the ♣6. Declarer took the ♣A and finessed the ♦10, winning, imagine if it had lost, South would be four light, −1100. Declarer cashed the diamonds and had seven tricks. That was two down, East-West +500 and 2 Imps to HANS.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West: East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

- **♦** A52
- **♥** A963
- ♦ A85
- ♣ AQ2

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

When I told my doctor about my loss of memory, he made me pay in advance.