

# 309. Not in the textbooks

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	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

	North	
	♠ K	
	♥ 10964	
	♦ AJ8764	
	♣ A2	
West		East
♠ J97643		♠ A10
♥ A87		♥ KJ32
♦ 5		♦ Q93
♣ J86		♣ KQ103
	South	
	♠ Q852	
	♥ Q5	
	♦ K102	
	♣ 9754	

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	?		

(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 overall 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

<p>West</p> <p>♠ J97643</p> <p>♥ A87</p> <p>♦ 5</p> <p>♣ J86</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ A10</p> <p>♥ KJ32</p> <p>♦ Q93</p> <p>♣ KQ103</p>
<p>North</p> <p>♠ K</p> <p>♥ 10964</p> <p>♦ AJ8764</p> <p>♣ A2</p>	
<p>South</p> <p>♠ Q852</p> <p>♥ Q5</p> <p>♦ K102</p> <p>♣ 9754</p>	

DON East-West:

West	North	East	South
3♠	Dble	4♠	All Pass

North cashed the ♣A and switched to the ♥10: two – five – ace. West played the ♠3: king – ace – two and the ♠10: queen – four – ♦4. South switched to the ♦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 3♠, South will often have ♠K-Q-x or even ♠K-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	Dble	All Pass

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.*