

319. If the shoe fits, wear it

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	2NT ⁽²⁾
Pass	?		

(1) 10-15 points, 6+ clubs OR 5 clubs and 4-major

(2) Clubs stopped, 15-18 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ QJ4
♥ AK32
♦ 853
♣ 853

The deal is from the 2017 Spingold (USA K-O Open Teams) semi-final between [LAVAZZA](#) and [SCHWARTZ](#).

Board 4: Dealer West : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ QJ4	
	♥ AK32	
	♦ 853	
	♣ 853	
West		East
♠ 10832		♠ A9
♥ 1097		♥ J85
♦ KJ1076		♦ Q9
♣ 4		♣ A109762
	South	
	♠ K765	
	♥ Q64	
	♦ A42	
	♣ KQJ	

[LAVAZZA](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatove</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	2NT
Pass	3♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽³⁾
Pass	3♠ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 10-15 points, 6+ clubs OR 5 clubs and 4-major

(2) Asking

(3) No 5-card major

(4) 4 hearts

With enough points for game and a 4-3-3-3 pattern, there is much to be said for raising 2NT to 3NT at once. If you move the ♠5 to the ♥5 in the South hand, you do have a 4-4 heart fit, but look how terrible 4♥ would be. West can lead the ♣4. East wins and returns the ♣10 (suit-preference for spades). West ruffs, plays a spade to East's ace and receives another club ruff. That is one off already and there is still a diamond to lose for two off.

If South would have been 3-4-3-3 and 4♥ is reached, even if there is no club ruff, the defence can always collect a spade, a club and two diamonds, one off even when the trumps are 3-2. Put me down for raising 2NT to 3NT.

Board 4: Dealer West : Both vulnerable

<p>North</p> <p>♠ QJ4</p> <p>♥ AK32</p> <p>♦ 853</p> <p>♣ 853</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ A9</p> <p>♥ J85</p> <p>♦ Q9</p> <p>♣ A109762</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ 10832</p> <p>♥ 1097</p> <p>♦ KJ1076</p> <p>♣ 4</p>	
<p>South</p> <p>♠ K765</p> <p>♥ Q64</p> <p>♦ A42</p> <p>♣ KQJ</p>	

Against South's 3NT, West led the ♣4. East took the ♣A and switched to the ♦Q, ducked, followed by the ♦9, ducked, and the ♣2. South won and knocked out the ♠A. With the hearts 3-3, South had two spades, four hearts, one diamond and two clubs, 9 tricks, +600.

This was yesterday's question:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	?

What would you do with the South hand?

SCHWARTZ North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gold</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Here is a good principle: If the hand fits a 1NT overcall (15-18 points, balanced, at least one stopper in opener's suit), choose 1NT rather than some other action. Note that Agustin Madala bid 2NT over 2♣ at the other table, but South was not prepared to bid 1NT over 1♣ here. Sensible would be 1NT South, 3NT North.

It is true that a 1NT overcall is risky, but if you cannot undertake risk, bridge is not the game for you. North's jump to 2♥, even by a passed hand, is expected to be (9) 10-11 (12) points. South could have bid 3NT after that.

Against North's 2♥, East led the ♠A and the ♠9. Declarer won and played a club. East took the ♣A and continued with the ♣10 (suit-preference for spades). West ruffed and played a spade. East ruffed and gave West another club ruff. West played the ♠10. North discarded the ♦5, loser-on-loser, and East ruffed. Declarer still had a diamond to lose. That was two down, East-West +200 and 13 Imps to **LAVAZZA**.

After East led the ♠A and the ♠9, it would have been prudent for North to play trumps. With trumps 3-3, North could then cash the spade winners, knock out the ♣A and pitch a diamond loser on the ♠K. North would make three spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs, 10 tricks, +170, but still a loss of 10 Imps. Even if trumps were 4-2, declarer would make 9 tricks one way or another.

When the deal was replayed in a game on BBO, North-South had the approved auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led ♠2, queen, ace. East returned ♠9, won by the ♠J. Declarer played ♠3 to ♠K. The ♣Q was taken by ♣A. When West discarded a spade, South had three spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs, 10 tricks, +630.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
?			1♠

What would you do as West with:

♠ K43
♥ KJ
♦ A84
♣ Q10763

I presume that you have been brought up well and that despite your 13 HCP, you have passed. The clubs are too weak for a 2♣ overcall and the lack of length in hearts makes a takeout double unattractive. OK, so the auction continues this way:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
?			Pass

What now?

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

What disease did cured ham actually have?