# 319. If the shoe fits, wear it

### By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	$2NT^{(2)}$
D	0		

Pass ?

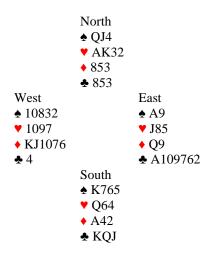
- (1) 10-15 points, 6+ clubs OR 5 clubs and 4-major
- (2) Clubs stopped, 15-18 points

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



#### LAVAZZA North-South:

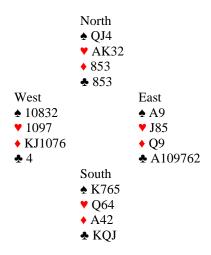
West	North	East	South
Stamatove	Bianchedi	Danailov	Madala
Pass	Pass	2 <b>♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	2NT
Pass	<b>3</b> ♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	<b>3</b> ♦ <sup>(3)</sup>
Pass	<b>3</b> ♠ <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (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



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 Sementa	North Schwartz	East <i>Bocchi</i>	South Gold
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 24 overcall and the lack of length in hearts makes a takeout double unattractive. OK, so the auction continues this way:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	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?