320. A series of spades

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

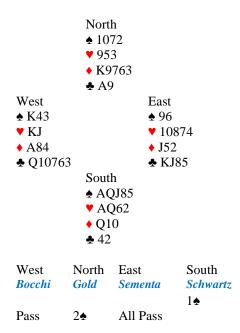
West	North	East	South
Pass ?	2♠	Pass	1 ≜ Pass

What would you do as West with:

▲ K43
♥ KJ
◆ A84
◆ Q10763

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

Board 5: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

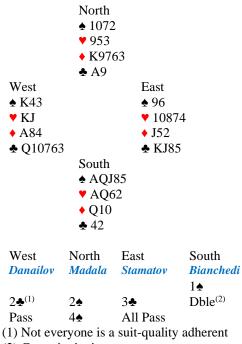


West's clubs are too weak for a 2 sovercall and the lack of length in hearts makes a takeout double unattractive. Passing over 1 is fine, but when the opponents have found a fit at the 2-level and it goes Pass : Pass to you, it is usually a good idea to compete. An exception is when you have a 4-3-3-3 pattern. West might back in with 3 or perhaps something else. A takeout double still does not appeal because of the lack of length in hearts.

West led the \bigstar 3, ace. The \bigstar 2 to the \bigstar Q won and the \blacklozenge Q was taken by the \blacklozenge A. West continued with a club to the king and East returned the \bigstar 9: five – king – seven. West played the \bigstar 4, won by the \bigstar 10. After the \checkmark 3 to the \checkmark Q lost, South ruffed the \bigstar Q return and ducked a heart. When the hearts were not 3-3, South lost 3 hearts, a spade, a diamond and a club.

Double dummy, South can make $2 \ge a$ number of ways. After aA, a heart to the ace and a low heart works. So does a low diamond to the 10, but these are not normal plays.

Board 5: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable



⁽²⁾ Game-invitation

With 7 HCP, North is at the bottom of the range for $1 \ge 2 \ge 1$ and might well bid just $3 \ge 1$. With 6 losers, South is entitled to invite game. With 9 losers, North should reject it.

West led the 46: nine – king – four. East switched to the 42: six – jack – three. Declarer lost a spade, a diamond, a club and two hearts, two light, East-West +200 and 3 Imps to SCHWARTZ.

This is what happened when the deal was replayed in a BBO game:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
(4) 3 61		1.1	

(1) Minors, not ideal, but 3♣ puts all your eggs in one basket

West led the \bigstar 6, taken by the \bigstar A. The \bigstar 10 won trick 2 and the next spade to the \bigstar Q was taken by the \bigstar K. West returned the third spade, won by the \bigstar J. Declarer exited with the \checkmark 2, taken by the \bigstar J. After \bigstar 3 to the \bigstar K, South ruffed the next club and played the \bigstar 10: four – king – five. Next came \checkmark 5: eight – queen – king and West returned a fourth club, ruffed. South made 1 club, 1 diamond, 1 heart and 4 spades, two down, East-West +200.

This column regularly warns players against competing 3-over-3. That is likely to be especially so when you were already prepared to stop in 2. This deal is another example. If you could restrain yourself from bidding on as South after 3. you could be plus. If South is on lead against 3. with neither major suit attractive, South could lead the A. If declarer plays a club, North can rise with the A and play K and another diamond. South ruffs and the A and A give North-South 5 tricks and +50. Not much but better than -100 or -200.

You will have noticed that the contracts on today's deal were 24, 34 and 44. Not one was successful.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

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

What would you do as West with:

▲ Q985
♥ 109
◆ 4
◆ A109865

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

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?