

338. How high to fly?

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2NT ⁽³⁾
Pass	?	Pass	

(1) Artificial, very strong

(2) Negative or waiting

(3) 22-24 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ 95
♥ A4
♦ Q109874
♣ J103

After you have made up your mind, move on to the next question. Suppose in the above auction, North has chosen 3NT. What would you lead as West from:

♠ 1076
♥ J1073
♦ 65
♣ K942

Make up your mind before continuing. This was yesterday's question:

With both sides vulnerable, there are three passes to you. What is your opening bid and what is your plan of bidding with:

♠ AKQJ
♥ KQ92
♦ AKJ3
♣ 6

One South opened a strong 1♣. Another opened 2♦ showing a weak two in hearts or in spades or 17-20 points and any 4-4-4-1. The other two had no systemic auction available for this kind of hand. They chose 2♣ : 2♦, 2NT to show a balanced hand and 22-24 points.

Players often open 2NT or take this auction when holding a singleton ace or a singleton king. That has some risk but doing so with a low singleton entails greater risk. Still, some risks have to be taken if you have no better way to describe this hand. Another option is to lie about your suit length. You could try 2♣ : 2♦, 2♣ and if partner rebids 2NT, you can rebid 3♥. That sequence would show 5+ spades 4+ hearts, but the spades are strong enough to justify that. You pay your money and you take your chances. As it happens, if you do bid 2♣ : 2♦, 2♣, partner with the hand in the top problem will rebid 3♦ and now you should find 6♦.

With four boards to go in the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, England led Poland by 205-201 and Sweden led USA2 by 236-234. In one match this deal effectively decided the match:

Board 93: Dealer West : Both vulnerable

North		
♠ 95		
♥ A4		
♦ Q109874		
♣ J103		
West		East
♠ 1076		♠ 8432
♥ J1073		♥ 865
♦ 65		♦ 2
♣ K942		♣ AQ875
South		
♠ AKQJ		
♥ KQ92		
♦ AKJ3		
♣ 6		

ENGLAND North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2NT ⁽³⁾
Pass	3♦ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4NT ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	5♣ ⁽⁶⁾	Dble	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Weak two in hearts or spades or any 4-4-4-1 with 17-20 points

(2) Pass or correct

(3) The 4-4-4-1 with a singleton club

(4) Diamond fit and game-forcing. 3♣ over 2NT would be a puppet to 3♦ with a weak hand

(5) Now, with 23 HCP rather than 17-20 and facing a game-forcing of probably 7+ points, South bid 4NT, Roman Key Card Blackwood

(6) One key card

North-South +1370.

POLAND North-South

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>No'sadzki</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽³⁾
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) In theory 22-24 balanced

(2) Slam invitation with diamond length (first problem, page 1)

(3) Keen on slam in diamonds

Opposite 22-24 points, North is entitled to invite slam. N-S +1370, no swing. England 205, Poland 201.

With SWEDEN North-South, South opened a strong 1♣. An artificial, relay auction ended in 6♦ by North, North-South +1370.

USA2 North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) First problem today – see above.

A club lead would defeat 3NT (second problem today), but there was no reason for West to find a club lead. A major suit was a normal start. West led the ♥J, North-South +720, but 12 Imps to Sweden, leading by 248-234.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 94

♥ KQ102

♦ AQJ98

♣ Q2

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

In my opinion, this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.- (British Military Staff Appraisal)