

339. The 2-Imp difference

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾

(1) 15-17 balanced

What would you do as West with:

♠ KQ8
♥ 9
♦ 1076
♣ AKJ843

With three boards to go in the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, England led Poland by 205-201 and Sweden led USA2 by 248-234. Board 94 was a 3NT contract for East-West with 21 HCP opposite 6 HCP. Each declarer made nine tricks, no swing. Board 95 was also flat, East-West 2♠ making an overtrick on an uncontested auction with an 8+ trump fit for North-South.

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 94
♥ KQ102
♦ AQJ98
♣ Q2

The last deal:

Board 96: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A10532	
	♥ 7653	
	♦ 542	
	♣ 10	
West		East
♠ KQ8		♠ J76
♥ 9		♥ AJ84
♦ 1076		♦ K3
♣ AKJ843		♣ 9765
	South	
	♠ 94	
	♥ KQ102	
	♦ AQJ98	
	♣ Q2	

With Sweden leading by 14 Imps, there was no way that USA2 could pick up 14 Imps here and so Sweden was in the final.

SWEDEN North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>W'dridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
		Pass	1♦
2♣	Dble ⁽¹⁾	2♦ ⁽²⁾	2♥
Dble ⁽³⁾	Pass	2NT(4)	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

(1) Majors, usually 6+ points

(2) Strong raise to 3♣

(3) Good hand, some game interest

(4) Hearts stopped, minimum for the 2♦ bid

At the other table Vince Demuy (S) – John Kranyak (N) bid 1NT : 2♣, 2♥, all pass. The USA2 declarers made an overtrick in each contract, +130 and +140, +7 Imps, but SWEDEN had won the match by 248-241.

Board 96: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

North	
♠ A10532	
♥ 7653	
♦ 542	
♣ 10	
West	East
♠ KQ8	♠ J76
♥ 9	♥ AJ84
♦ 1076	♦ K3
♣ AKJ843	♣ 9765
South	
♠ 94	
♥ KQ102	
♦ AQJ98	
♣ Q2	

ENGLAND North-South:

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

(1) Majors, usually 6+ points

(2) Good hand

West had no difficulty competing after the 1♦ opening. North led the ♦2. West lost two diamonds and a spade, 10 tricks, Poland +130.

POLAND North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
		Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Transfer to spades

With two doubletons, South's hand is not pure for a 1NT opening, but the South hand is too weak for a reverse. If South opens 1♦, South might not be able to show the hearts conveniently. Given the favourable vulnerability, South opted for the 1NT opening.

West needed to be able to show the 1-suiter, but 2♣ would have shown clubs and a major and as 3♣ would have been pre-emptive, West passed. North did not have rescue Stayman available. As it happens 1NT : 2♣, 2♥ would have found their fit, but 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ : 2♥ would have been game-inviting. Therefore North chose the transfer to spades.

After Pass : 1NT : Pass : 2♥, Pass : 2♣, the North hand was unlimited and might have been bidding game next or inviting game. West thought it was not safe to bid and so 2♣ became the contract. ENGLAND was leading by 205-201 and needed to beat 2♣ to win the match. If they scored +50, they would lose 2 Imps, but win by 2 Imps. If 2♣ made, Poland would collect +130 and +11, +6 Imps, and win by 2 Imps.

One way to show the club 2-suiter can be found in the methods included in *A Good Game of Modern Bridge* (see page 226 and available from www.ronklingerbridge.com) where (1NT) : 2♦ shows any 1-suiter other than diamonds.

Against 2♣, West led the ♣A and switched to the ♦6: two – king – ace. Declarer played the ♠9: queen – two – seven. West continued with the ♦10, ace. South could now make routinely by playing ♠A and another spade, but on the ♠4: eight – ace, East dropped the ♠J. South took the ♠J as genuine and did not play a third round of spades. He continued with the ♥3: eight – king – nine. Next came the ♦J: seven – five – ♠6.

The World Championship Book now has West playing a club: queen – king – ruffed, leaving this position:

	North	
	♠ 105	
	♥ 765	
	♦	
	♣	
West		East
♠ K		♠
♥		♥ AJ4
♦		♦
♣ J843		♣ 97
	South	
	♠	
	♥ Q102	
	♦ 98	
	♣	

According to the World Championship book, South now played a heart from dummy and East rose with the ♥A. Declarer could ruff the club return and lose only a spade to the king for +110.

According to the BBO records, East did not play a club after ruffing the ♦J. The BBO record has East playing the ♥A at that point, not that it made a difference, and South made eight tricks, +110, 6 Imps to Poland, who had won the match by 2 Imps.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

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

(1) 15-17 points
 (2) 3-suiter, 4-spades, 0-1 heart

What would you do as South with:

♠ J1073
 ♥ AQJ10763
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 10

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

Why do Americans sing 'Take me out to the ball game' when they are already there?