

360. Trick counters

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?		3♠

What would you do as North with:

♠ A
♥ AKJ987
♦ 98
♣ K854

This was yesterday's question:

As dealer, both sides vulnerable, what would you do with:

♠ Q9876432
♥ 62
♦ A7
♣ 6

The hand has six losers and thus seven playing tricks. Adding three for a pre-empt indicates an opening bid of 4♠. There are two cases against that, even though an 8-card suit makes a high pre-empt attractive. Firstly, your suit is quite poor and you could reasonably count this as 2½ losers in spades. If the spades were a bit stronger, say, Q-J-10-7-6-4-3-2 or even Q-J-9-7-6-4-3-2, you would have a good case for 4♠. Secondly, because the opening is 4♠, there is a greater chance of being doubled for penalties when the opponents don't want to commit to the five-level.

As it is, South has 6 – 6.5 losers and so 6.5 – 7 playing tricks. It is borderline between a 3♠ and a 4♠ opening. Some would open 4♠, but 3♠ looks quite enough.

As for today's question, if partner had opened 4♠, you have an easy pass. For the 3♠ opening, as partner is counting on you for three tricks, you expect 6 tricks opposite. You have three winners for partner with the ♠A and the ♥A, ♥K. The question then arises, 'Do you have more than three tricks for partner?' The answer is clearly a 'Yes' as you have the CK which is at least a 50-50 chance for an extra trick. That should make it easy to raise 3♠ to 4♠.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
♠ J10	♠ A	♠ K5	♠ Q9876432
♥ Q104	♥ AKJ987	♥ 53	♥ 62
♦ QJ52	♦ 98	♦ K10643	♦ A7
♣ AQJ7	♣ K854	♣ 10932	♣ 6

The 4♠ game is a bit better than 50%. It would fail some of the time when an opponent has ♠K-J-x or ♠K-10-x, but it succeeds here with trumps 2-2 (42%). It would also make if either opponent had the ♠K singleton. (12%). That gives 4♠ a total chance of about 54%.

Those who did choose a 4♠ opening can thank their lucky stars that North produced such a suitable hand. Imagine if the hand opposite South had been West or East. Now 3♠ is as much as you could make.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

North	
♠ A	
♥ AKJ987	
♦ 98	
♣ K854	
West	East
♠ J10	♠ K5
♥ Q104	♥ 53
♦ QJ52	♦ K10643
♣ AQJ7	♣ 10932
South	
♠ Q9876432	
♥ 62	
♦ A7	
♣ 6	

The deal arose in a club duplicate pairs:

The popular spot was 4♠. Top board went to South making 11 tricks, +650, on the ♦Q lead. Maybe West ducked when South led a club? The others made 10 tricks, +620 and 68%. Those in 3♠ scored 38% for 11 tricks, +200, and 20% for 10 tricks, +170. Ditto for 2♠ making 10 tricks. Bottom score and a top for East-West was South going two off in 6♠.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
4♥	?		

(1) 5 hearts and a 4+ minors, 6-11 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ 1093
♥ --
♦ A10874
♣ AKQJ7

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

What do you get when you cross a bunny with a Rottweiler? Just the Rottweiler.