

## 389. Minor choice – major outcome

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♣
3♥	?		

(1) Weak two, 6-10 points, 6 hearts

What would you do as North with:

♠ 9762  
♥ 5  
♦ K106  
♣ KJ983

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	?

(1) Weak two, 6-10 points, 6 hearts

What would you do as South with:

♠ A  
♥ J764  
♦ A43  
♣ AQ1062

The natural action here is an overcall of 3♣. Partner figures to have some values since West is a passed hand and East has opened with a weak two. If partner bids 3♠, you can rebid 3NT. If partner wants to look for 3NT, partner can bid 3♥ as a stopper-ask.

In the quarter-final match between [FLEISHER](#) and [LAVAZZA](#) in the 2016 Vanderbilt (USA Knockout Open Teams), one South bid 2NT and North raised to 3NT. At the other table, after today's question at the top of the page, North bid 4♥, a club raise with heart shortage, over 3♥. That suggests a slightly stronger hand than North has (North needs an extra king perhaps). A raise to 4♣ looks adequate or maybe a jump to 5♣.

Over 4♥, South jumped to 6♣, all pass. As North put dummy down, he said, "I'm a little light, sorry."

How would you plan the play in 6♣ after West's lead of the ♥Q, East overtaking with the ♥K and shifting to the ♠Q, won by your ace?

North  
♠ 9762  
♥ 5  
♦ K106  
♣ KJ983

South  
♠ A  
♥ J764  
♦ A43  
♣ AQ1062

Decide on your plan of play and what you need in order to make 6♣ before proceeding to the next page.

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

<p style="text-align: center;">North</p> <p>♠ 9762</p> <p>♥ 5</p> <p>♦ K106</p> <p>♣ KJ983</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">East</p> <p>♠ QJ8</p> <p>♥ AK10982</p> <p>♦ 985</p> <p>♣ 4</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ K10543</p> <p>♥ Q3</p> <p>♦ QJ72</p> <p>♣ 75</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">South</p> <p>♠ A</p> <p>♥ J764</p> <p>♦ A43</p> <p>♣ AQ1062</p>

At one table, it went Pass : Pass : 2♥ : 2NT, Pass : 3NT, all pass. West led the ♥Q. East won the next heart and switched to the ♠J (a deceptive card . . . the normal play from Q-J-x is the queen, but it did no harm this time). South won and could do no better than take five clubs and two diamonds to go with the ♠A, one light, giving East-West +50.

At the other table, world-class Sabine Auken (S) was in 6♣ after the sequence recounted on the previous page. Zia Mahmood (W) led the ♥Q. Giorgio Duboin (E) overtook with the ♥K and switched to the ♠Q, won by ♠A.

Given the weak 2♥ opening by East, South figured that East would not have four spades as well. That placed West with 5+ spades. If West also held 5 diamonds or the ♦Q + ♦J, West would ultimately be squeezed. Basing her play on this hope, South ruffed a heart, ruffed the ♠6, ruffed a heart, ruffed the ♠7 and ruffed her last heart. Then came ♠K to the ♠A, followed by the ♠Q. These cards remained:

<p style="text-align: center;">North</p> <p>♠ 9</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ K106</p> <p>♣</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">East</p> <p>♠</p> <p>♥ A</p> <p>♦ 985</p> <p>♣</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ K</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ QJ7</p> <p>♣</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">South</p> <p>♠</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ A43</p> <p>♣ 10</p>

When South played her last trump, West was finished. Discarding the ♠K would make dummy's ♠9 high and dummy would pitch the ♦6. If West threw a diamond, declarer would throw the ♠9 from dummy and take the last three tricks with ♦A, ♦K, ♦10. That gave North-South +920 and +14 Imps.

Things were not nearly as exciting when the deal was replayed in a game on BBO. There the auction went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	4♣	All Pass	

(1) 4+ spades, 6-11 points

Declarer made 11 tricks, North-South +150.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♠
2♦	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ AKQ9  
♥ AK54  
♦ 732  
♣ 104

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

*I always wanted to be a monk, but I never got the chants.*