

26. Tales of the Black Suits

By Ron Klinger

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠ ⁽¹⁾	2♥	1♣
Pass	?		Dble ⁽²⁾

(1) 4+ diamonds, denies 4 spades

(2) For takeout

What would you do as North with:

North
 ♠ K109
 ♥ J75
 ♦ 10972
 ♣ A53

Today's deals come from a teams' match in March, 2020.

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

		North		
		♠ K109		
		♥ J75		
		♦ 10972		
		♣ A53		
West			East	
♠ A62			♠ J84	
♥ KQ1062			♥ A94	
♦ 8654			♦ J3	
♣ 7			♣ KQ1084	
		South		
		♠ Q753		
		♥ 83		
		♦ AKQ		
		♣ J962		

At one table, it went:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♣
2♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Strong heart raise

(2) Not interested

(3) Enthusiastic and I have clubs

The result was one off, N-S +50. There is a good case for East, with eight losers, to pass 2♥. At the other table, after the auction in the problem above, North bid 3♣, East doubled, all pass. The defence began with ♥K, heart to the ace and ♦J switch. South finished three down, -500 and -10 Imps. South need not have doubled 2♥, but it appeals to contest a part-score when the opponents have found a fit. Another option for North, having denied four spades already, is to bid 2♠ in reply to the double. South can still remove 2♠ if that does not suit.

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dble ⁽¹⁾	?

(1) Negative double, 6+ points, 4+ hearts

What would you do as South with:

♠ 5
♥ K654
♦ 8
♣ AJ108743

Suppose the auction had been:

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	?

(1) 6+ spades, 11-14 points
(2) Negative double, 6+ points, 4+ hearts

What would you do with the same South hand?

West dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AJ9862	
	♥ J	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ KQ52	
West		East
♠ KQ43		♠ 107
♥ Q983		♥ A1072
♦ AJ653		♦ K10942
♣ --		♣ 96
	South	
	♠ 5	
	♥ K654	
	♦ 8	
	♣ AJ108743	

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dble ⁽¹⁾	2♣
2♥	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Negative double, 6+ points, 4+ hearts

West led ♥8, taken by ♥A. South lost a diamond and a heart and had no trouble coming to 11 tricks for +600.

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 6+ spades, 11-14 points
(2) Negative double, 6+ points, 4+ hearts

North led the ♣K, ruffed. West played the ♥8, jack, ace, ruffed the ♠9 and then played diamonds and more diamonds. Declarer lost three hearts and the ♠A, but had nine tricks, +140.

After 1♦ : 1♠ : Double, South has a comfortable 2♣ advance. After 1♦ : 2♠ : Double, South should similarly bid 3♣. South was deterred by the shortage in spades and a possible misfit, but South's playing potential is huge. 5♣ might equally make if the North hand had the same values and 7-1-2-3 shape.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you do as North with:

♠ 54
♥ Q10654
♦ K54
♣ A65

Suppose you have chosen 1NT. It continues:

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

What now?

2. North dealer : North-South vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ A654
♥ 5
♦ AK94
♣ 10983

(Answers tomorrow)

Why not discuss the problems by phone with your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

*There once was a man from Racine,
Who programmed a dealing machine.
With the cards oh he toyed
So there was always a void,
And the king behind the ace-queen.
(ACBL Bulletin, March 2020)*