

50. 3NT vs 5♣ choices

By Ron Klinger

The Alt Invitational, held in April, was organized by bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online). There were eight teams, playing a round-robin, followed by semi-finals and a final. These were the teams:

Blass	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
De Botton	Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes, Artur Malinowski
Hungary	Miklos Dumbovich, Gal Hegedus, Csaba Szabo, Balasz Szegedi, Gabor Winkler
Upmark	Peter Bertheau, Per Ola Cullin, Simon Hult, Marion Michielsen, Fredrik Nyström, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark
Meltzer	Rose Meltzer, Nikolay Demirev, Bartosz Chmurski, Piotr Nawrocki, Piotr Tuczynski, Piotr Wiankowski
Milner	Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland
Street	Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski
Team NL	Maarten Schollaardt, Merijn Groenenboom, Danny Molenaar, Tim Verbeek, Joris van Lankveld, Berend van den Bos, Bart Nab, Bob Drijver, Guy Mendes de Leon, Thibo Sprinkhuizen
Zhao	Zhao Chen, Liu Jing, Bauke Muller, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs

Day 3, Round 6: BLASS beat DE BOTTON 47-36 (12.54-7.46) MELTZER beat TEAM NL by 42-32 (12.33-7.67) MILNER beat HUNGARY by 50-40 (12.33-7.67) and STREET beat ZHAO 59-32 (15.39-4.61)

Current Standings after Round 6:

1. BLASS 88.13
2. DE BOTTON 77.53
3. STREET 75.33
4. TEAM NL 58.47
5. MELTZER 56.33
6. ZHAO 47.43
7. HUNGARY 41.06
8. MILNER 37.72

With neither side vulnerable, South opens 1NT (13-15 or 14-17). West shows a 1-suiter (via Double or via an artificial 2♦). What would you do as North with:

- ♠ --
- ♥ A98
- ♦ KQ1098
- ♣ 108743

Round 6 : Board 11

South dealer : Nil vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ --	
	♥ A98	
	♦ KQ1098	
	♣ 108743	
West		East
♠ AKJ8632		♠ 754
♥ 32		♥ Q10765
♦ A		♦ J762
♣ Q95		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ Q109	
	♥ KJ4	
	♦ 543	
	♣ AKJ6	

The board was flat in **BLASS** vs **DE BOTTON**, but not in a way which either North-South pair would have wanted:

BLASS North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Dble	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Stopper ask, spade shortage

West led the ♠2. South won and played ♣A, ♣K, ♣J. West won and continued with ♠A, ♠K, the rest of the spades and the ♦A to take 3NT four down, East-West +200.

DE BOTTON North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Single suited in a major

West led the ♠K, asking for count. East played the ♠7, reverse count, showing an odd number of spades. West played the ♠6: ♦8 – ♠5 – ♠10. South cashed the ♣A, crossed to the ♥A and played a club. When East showed out, South took the ♣K and played a diamond. West won, cashed the spades and the ♣Q and gave declarer a heart trick at the end, also four down, East-West +200, no swing.

MELTZER, North-South: 1NT : Double : 3♣ (stopper ask) : 3NT, all pass. Lead: ♠K. Four down, –200.

TEAM NL North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♠	2♣	2♣	3♦ ⁽¹⁾
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

(1) Trial bid, seeking help in diamonds

North led the ♦K. West won and played the ♣9: ten – two – jack!. South returned the ♠9. West won with the ♠A, ruffed the ♣5, ruffed a diamond and ruffed the ♣Q. West had a spade and two hearts to lose, two down. North-South +300 and 11 Imps to **TEAM NL**. With 5♦ going down, bidding 5-over-5 proved unsuccessful.

<p>West</p> <p>♠ AKJ8632</p> <p>♥ 32</p> <p>♦ A</p> <p>♣ Q95</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ --</p> <p>♥ A98</p> <p>♦ KQ1098</p> <p>♣ 108743</p>
<p>South</p> <p>♠ Q109</p> <p>♥ KJ4</p> <p>♦ 543</p> <p>♣ AKJ6</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ 754</p> <p>♥ Q10765</p> <p>♦ J762</p> <p>♣ 2</p>

ZHAO North-South: 1♣ : 4♣ : 5♣ : 5♠, Pass : Pass : Double, All pass. The ♦K went to the ♦A, West played the ♣9: four! – two – jack. South switched to the ♠9, ace. West was two down, North-South +300. With 5♣ makeable without too much trouble, bidding 5-over-5 was a good idea. You just have to pick your moments.

STREET North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

With 5♣ on for North-South, it would be a good result to be one off in 4♣. West achieved a better result. He made 4♠. West won the ♦K lead and exited with the ♣9: seven! – two – jack. South switched to the ♠9. Given South's 1NT opening, West placed South with the ♠Q rather than North having the ♠Q singleton. West covered with the ♠J winning. Then came club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, ♠A, ♠K, ten tricks, +420 and 12 Imps to **STREET**.

HUNGARY North-South: 1♣ : 1♠ : 2♦ : Pass, 3NT, all pass. West led ♠K, ♠A and ♠J, four off, East-West +200.

MILNER North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Dble	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♣
3♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

(1) Takeout, usually minors

(2) For takeout

West led the ♠A, ruffed. After ♣4 to the ♣A, South played the ♦4. West won and, endplayed, exited with the ♥3. South won with the ♥J, ruffed a spade and played the ♣8 to the ♣K. South had 11 tricks, +400 and 12 Imps to **MILNER**.

South dealer North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♠
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ A2

♥ KQJ64

♦ 103

♣ 9765

Round 6 : Board 15

South dealer : North-South vulnerable.

	North ♠ 109 ♥ 93 ♦ A74 ♣ AKQJ43	
West ♠ A2 ♥ KQJ64 ♦ 103 ♣ 9765	East ♠ KJ54 ♥ 10872 ♦ 9862 ♣ 8	
	South ♠ Q8763 ♥ A5 ♦ KQJ5 ♣ 102	

While 5♣ is available, the spot you would like to reach is 3NT with 11 tricks unassailable. With a free run, that should not be too difficult. However, West might well overcall 2♥, especially at this vulnerability. Two Wests passed over 1♠ and North-South had no trouble finding 3NT, making 11 tricks, +660. One passed 1♠, but came in later with 2♥. That proved ineffective:

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

(1) Forcing to game

(2) Doubleton spade support

Lead: ♥K, +660, for a flat board with 3NT reached without interference at the other table.

The board was also flat in **HUNGARY** vs **MILNER**, but not in 3NT. **MILNER** North-South had an artificial auction to 5♣. **HUNGARY** North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♣	4♥	Dble
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Both Norths made 11 tricks, +600.

So, how can you reach 3NT if the opponents bid 2♥ and raise to 3♥? This was yesterday's second problem:

South dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ 109
 ♥ 83
 ♦ A74
 ♣ AKQJ43

	North	
	♠ 109	
	♥ 93	
	♦ A74	
	♣ AKQJ43	
West		East
♠ A2		♠ KJ54
♥ KQJ64		♥ 10872
♦ 103		♦ 9862
♣ 9765		♣ 8
	South	
	♠ Q8763	
	♥ A5	
	♦ KQJ5	
	♣ 102	

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	?		

One North bid 4♣, all pass, +150. Nope, that wasn't the right answer. That was -11 Imps vs 3NT +660.

Another North doubled, all pass. The result was one down, North-South +100. Nope, that didn't work either. At the other table, North also doubled 3♥, but here that was not for penalties or for takeout, but an ask for a stopper in hearts. Now that's a good idea. South bid 3NT, all pass, North-South +660 and +11 Imps.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			4♠
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ --
♥ AQJ3
♦ AKJ102
♣ AQ92

2. East dealer : North-South vulnerable

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

(1) Game-force, 4+ hearts

What would you do as South with:

♠ K964
♥ KQ843
♦ AKQ7
♣ --

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

Why do 'fat chance' and 'slim chance' mean the same thing?