

# 79. Minor decisions

Today's deals are from Round 7 of Alt-Invitational III, organized by bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online). These were the teams:

<b>Blass</b>	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
<b>Bridge Scanner</b>	Konrad Araszkiwicz, Krzysztof Kotorowicz, Wojciech Olanski, Vytautas Vainikonis, Erikas Vainikonis, Andrei Arlovich, Mirhail Krasnoselskii, Georgy Matushko
<b>De Botton</b>	Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes, Artur Malinowski
<b>Donner</b>	Gary Donner, Cecilia Rimstedt, Frederik Nystrom, Johan Upmark, Marion Michielsen, Per Ola Cullin,
<b>Gupta</b>	Naren Gupta, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs, Huub Bertens, Cedric Lorenzini, Thomas Bessis
<b>Street</b>	Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski
<b>Team Rosenthal</b>	Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, Chris Willenken, Jan Jansma, Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindquist
<b>Team Russia</b>	Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Vadim Kholomeev, Yury Khuppenen, Yury Khokhlov, Alexander Dubinin

With both sides vulnerable, Partner opens 2NT. Pass on your right. What would do with:

♠ KJ7  
♥ 2  
♦ K982  
♣ Q9865

There are various methods for bidding after a 2NT opening. Old-style was 3♣ Stayman, 3♦/3♥/3♠ all 5-card suits. Modern style includes 3♣ 5-card major Stayman, 3♦ / 3♥ transfers and 3♠ = 5 spades, 4 hearts. Others prefer 3♣ 5-card major Stayman, 3♦ / 3♥ transfers, 3♠ = minor-suit Stayman. Bid 2NT : 3♣, 3♦ : 4♥ with 5 spades, 4 hearts, no slam interest and 2NT : 3♣, 3♦ : 4♠ with 5 spades, 4 hearts and slam interest. With 4 spades, 5 hearts, you bid 2NT : 3♦, 3♥ : 3♠.

The above hand has 9 HCP, not primarily a slam hand opposite 20-22 points, but what if a minor-suit fit exists? Now there certainly could be a slam. You can bid 2NT : 3♠ (do you have a 4+ minor?). If partner bids 3NT, you pass. If partner shows a minor, you can head for slam.

Bd. 7: South dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A102	
	♥ AK6	
	♦ QJ10	
	♣ AK32	
West		East
♠ 953		♠ Q864
♥ 10984		♥ QJ753
♦ A753		♦ 64
♣ 74		♣ J10
	South	
	♠ KJ7	
	♥ 2	
	♦ K982	
	♣ Q9865	

**BLASS** North-South bid Pass : 2NT, 3♠ (minors) : 4♣ (agreeing clubs), 4♥ (cue) : 4NT, all pass. Was North asking for key cards? Did North think that South lacked diamond control. North made 12 tricks, N-S +690.

**STREET** North-South bid Pass : 2NT, 3♠ (minors), 4♣ : 4♦ (cue), 4NT : 5♦ (0 or 3 key cards), 6NT, all pass. East led the ♥Q. North won, cashed the ♠K and knocked out the ♦A, 12 tricks, +1440, 12 Imps to **STREET**.

South dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A102	
	♥ AK6	
	♦ QJ10	
	♣ AK32	
West		East
♠ 953		♠ Q864
♥ 10984		♥ QJ753
♦ A753		♦ 64
♣ 74		♣ J10
	South	
	♠ KJ7	
	♥ 2	
	♦ K982	
	♣ Q9865	

**BRIDGE SCANNER** North-South bid Pass : 2NT, 3♣ (looking for a 5-3 spade fit) : 3NT (no 4-card or 5-card major), 4♣ (five clubs) : 4♥ (cue, no diamond control), 4♠ (spade control *and* diamond control) : 6♣, all pass. ♦A lead, followed by ♦3, 12 tricks, North-South +1370.

**ROSENTHAL** North-South bid Pass : 2NT, 3♠ (minors) : 4♣, 4♦ (cue) : 4NT, 5♣ (0 or 3 key cards) : 6♣, all pass. ♣J lead, 12 tricks, North-South +1370, no swing.

The board was also flat in 6♣ +1370 in **DE BOTTON** vs **GUPTA**.

**DONNER** North-South bid to 6♣, +1370, after North opened 1♣, artificial, strong, in third seat, East overcalled 1♥ and South jumped to 3♣.

At the other table, **RUSSIA** had an accident. North-South bid Pass : 2NT, 3♠ : 3NT (no major), 4♥, all pass! West led the ♥10 and South finished two down, -200 and 17 Imps to **DONNER**.

West dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♠
?			

(1) 10+ points, 4+ diamonds

What would you do as West with:

♠ A  
♥ K7  
♦ K10654  
♣ AKJ74

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J72	
	♥ QJ84	
	♦ Q	
	♣ Q9652	
West		East
♠ A		♠ Q5
♥ K7		♥ A532
♦ K10654		♦ AJ9872
♣ AKJ74		♣ 3
	South	
	♠ K1098643	
	♥ 1096	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 108	

As you can see, 7♦ is laydown and was reached three times. Four pairs played in 6♦ and one saved in 6♣ doubled.

After the problem auction, **DONNER** West bid 4NT, a sensible choice. East bid 5♠, 2 key cards plus the ♦Q (the diamond length compensated for the ♦Q). West bid 6♣, no key cards missing, interested in 7♦. East bid 7♦, all pass, East-West +2140.

With **RUSSIA** East-West it began 1♣ (artificial, strong) : Pass : 2♦ (5+ diamonds, 8+ points, game-force) : 4♠ and also ended in 7♦, +2140, no swing.

**GUPTA** East-West reached 7♦, +2140, after West opened with a strong 1♣. With **DE BOTTON** East-West, the auction went 1♦ : Pass : 1♥ : 3♠, 4♠ : Pass : 6♦, all pass, +1390, but 13 Imps to **GUPTA**.

**BLASS** East-West bid to 6♦ after an auction almost the same as **DE BOTTON**'s sequence. **STREET** also ended in 6♦ after South overcalled 2♠, no swing.

**ROSENTHAL** East-West bid to 6♦, +1390, after South came in with 3♠ over East's response. At the other table, with **BRIDGE SCANNER** East-West, the auction was more exciting:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	3♠
4♦	4♠	6♦	6♠
Pass <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Dble	All Pass

(1) Promises first-round spade control, invites 7♦

West led the ♣A and switched to the ♦4. East won and shifted to the ♥5 (high-hate): nine – king – four. West returned the ♥7. East took the ♥A and returned the ♥2, suit-preference for clubs. West ruffed with the ♠A, cashed the ♣K and played the ♣7: nine – ♦2 – ♠4. Down to only trumps, South played the ♠K and East scored the ♠Q to take 6♠ doubled six down, +1400, but no swing.

**Round 7 Results:**

	Imps	Victory Points
<b>Donner - Russia</b>	41 - 37	10.99 - 9.01
<b>Blass - Street</b>	21 - 42	5.57 - 14.43
<b>Rosenthal – Bridge Scanner</b>	50 - 14	16.64 - 3.36
<b>Gupta - De Botton</b>	73 - 31	17.36 - 2.64

## Final Standings after the Round-Robin

1. Blass	107.41
2. Street	81.58
3. Russia	80.94
4. Gupta	75.18
5. Donner	65.76
6. BridgeScanner	53.48
7. De Botton	48.13
8. Rosenthal	47.52

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. North dealer : North-South vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ AK  
♥ 9  
♦ A6543  
♣ KQ1063

2. West dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

What would you lead as West from:

♠ A83  
♥ AK  
♦ QJ8754  
♣ Q10

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

*I made out a huge 'To do' list for today. I just can't figure out who's going to do it.*