

# 84. Missing inaction

*By Ron Klinger*

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥ (1) 4+ spades	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	?	1♣

What would you do as East with:

♠ 1064  
♥ J42  
♦ A1095  
♣ 954

Would your answer change if it had started:

West	North	East	South
1♥ (1) 5+ spades	1♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	?	1♣

Today's deals arose in a teams' match on BBO:

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K9532	
	♥ 10	
	♦ KQ863	
	♣ KQ	
West		East
♠ AQ87		♠ 1064
♥ A8765		♥ J42
♦ J4		♦ A1095
♣ J3		♣ 954
	South	
	♠ J	
	♥ KQ93	
	♦ 72	
	♣ A108762	

At one table, East bid 2♥ over North's double (4+ spades). At the other table, East passed North's 1♠ (5+ spades). As East, you have one trick for partner and maybe a smidgeon more. With that 3-3-4-3 pattern and an 11-loser hand, do you really want partner to be bidding higher, to be competing for a part-score at the 3-level or sacrificing if they bid game. A raise to the 2-level is usually a 9-loser hand or a 10-loser hand with 7-9 HCP.

At one table it went:

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

(1) 4+ spades  
(2) Asking for a heart stopper

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K9532	
	♥ 10	
	♦ KQ863	
	♣ KQ	
West		East
♠ AQ87		♠ 1064
♥ A8765		♥ J42
♦ J4		♦ A1095
♣ J3		♣ 954
	South	
	♠ J	
	♥ KQ93	
	♦ 72	
	♣ A108762	

South's 3NT can be defeated by the ♠A lead followed by the ♠8 (or ♠7), but that is not going to happen in real life, especially not after East raised hearts. West led the ♥6: ten – jack – king. South played the ♦2: four – king ace. East returned the ♥4: queen – ace – ♠2. West continued with ♥8. South won with the ♥9, cashed ♣K and overtook the ♣Q with the ♣A, dropping West's ♣K, to take four more club tricks and nine tricks in all, +400.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♥	1♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

(1) 5+ spades

I would have thought that North, with 13 HCP and an excellent fit for South's repeated club suit, might have raised 2NT to 3NT, even more so in view of East's pass over 1♣.

West led the ♦J: king – ace – two. East switched to the ♣5: two – three – queen. Declarer continued with ♣K, ♦Q, diamond ruff, ♣A, low heart to the ten and jack. South made six clubs, two hearts and a diamond for +110, but –7 Imps.

East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ A963  
 ♥ Q82  
 ♦ AJ32  
 ♣ 98

On the plus side, you have 11 HCP and partner's 1NT rebid can be up to 14 HCP. The partnership can have 25 HCP and vulnerable games should be bid with 24+ points at teams. On the negative side, your suits are poor. It would be very conservative to pass, but it could be right. If partner has a minimum, 2NT could fail.

East dealer : Both vulnerable

	North ♠ A963 ♥ Q82 ♦ AJ32 ♣ 98	
West ♠ 8742 ♥ K104 ♦ Q74 ♣ 654	East ♠ J105 ♥ J93 ♦ K105 ♣ KQ72	
	South ♠ KQ ♥ A765 ♦ 986 ♣ AJ103	

At one table, South's 1NT rebid was passed out. West led ♠7: three – ten – queen. South played ♦8: seven – two – ten. East switched to ♣2: three – six – eight. Next came the ♣9, winning, and the ♠K. The ♦9 ran to the ♦K. East switched to the ♥J: five – king – two. Declarer had the rest, ten tricks, +180.

One thing to note is the power of the intermediate cards, the nines and eights. Dummy's ♣9-8 give declarer three club tricks on this layout and many others. North's ♠9 becomes a winner when the ♠J and ♠10 come down in three rounds. Holding good intermediates is a reason to upgrade your hand.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	2♣ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(4)</sup>
Pass	2NT <sup>(5)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Minimum opening, fewer than three spades

(3) Puppet to 2♦, either to sign off in 2♦ or to make a game-inviting rebid

(4) Forced after the 1NT rebid

(5) Inviting 3NT

As South has denied three spades, the ♠K-Q is another positive feature. Maybe partner has ♠A-J-x-x-x. South's 3NT acceptance comes with no guarantees, but it worked out well this time.

West led the ♦4: two – ten – six. East switched to the ♣2: three – six – eight. Back came the ♣9: king – ace – four and the ♣J : five – ♥2 – queen. East switched to the ♠J, king. South cashed the ♠Q and ran the ♦9 to the ♦K. Declarer made nine tricks, +600 and +9 Imps.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. As dealer, what would you do with:

♠ KJ985  
♥ K762  
♦ 85  
♣ K10

2.

North  
♠ A1063  
♥ 1085  
♦ 4  
♣ A9842

South  
♠ KJ985  
♥ K762  
♦ 85  
♣ K10

West	North	East	South
2♦	4♣	All Pass	1♠

West leads the ♦A and switches to the ♣J. Plan the play.

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

*If you decline to bid a game, everything lies favourably for declarer and game makes comfortably. If you do bid game, the breaks are terrible and all the critical cards are offside.*