

# 128. Big numbers

By Ron Klinger

You are the dealer, not vulnerable vs vulnerable. What do you do with:

♠ 1085  
♥ KJ9862  
♦ K5  
♣ 85

The standard answer would be 2♥, a weak two, showing a respectable 6-card suit and 6-10 points. Nothing like that for the young players of today. They play various systems based on the EHAA approach (Every Hands An Adventure). Susan Humphries, a member of the current Australian Women's Team opened 3♥. There was bad news and good news.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	<i>Jessica Brake</i>	
	♠ 63	
	♥ 107	
	♦ Q108642	
	♣ 1093	
West		East
♠ AQ72		♠ KJ94
♥ AQ543		♥ --
♦ 3		♦ AJ97
♣ K64		♣ AQJ72
	South	
	<i>Susan Humphries</i>	
	♠ 1085	
	♥ KJ9862	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 85	

West	North	East	South
			3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	All Pass

(1) For takeout

West led the ♦3. East took the ♦A and returned the ♦7, suit-preference for clubs. West ruffed and switched to the ♣K. East overtook with the ♣A and played ♣Q, ♣J, high card each time as suit preference for spades. South ruffed with the ♥6 and played the ♥2: four – seven – ♠9, followed by the ♦Q: nine – ♠5 – ♥5. West switched to the ♠A and South lost two spades and two hearts for down five, East-West +1100. ‘Serves South right for that 3♥ opening’, you think? That was indeed the bad news for South. The good news was that East can make not only 6♠ or 6♣ but also 7♠ or 7♣.

When the board was originally played in an international match, one East-West pair did bid 7♠ for +2210. At the other table the contract was 2♥ doubled, East-West +500.

With both sides vulnerable it goes Pass : Pass to you. What do you do with:

♠ A93  
♥ Q5  
♦ AKQ32  
♣ AK4

Would you open 2NT or upgrade the hand to 23-24 points and bid 2♣ : 2♦, 2NT?

♠ A93  
 ♥ Q5  
 ♦ AKQ32  
 ♣ AK4

It is more efficient to have a 2NT range for a 2NT opening or a 2NT rebid. Brake-Humphries play 1NT as 15-17 and 1X : 1Y, 2NT as 18-19. The 2NT opening is 20-21 and 2♣ : 2♦, 2NT is 22-23. With 24+, the bidding starts 2♣ : 2♦, 2♥ (artificial, hearts or 24+ balanced) : 2♠ (waiting), 2NT 24+ balanced and any other bid = 5+ hearts and whatever the other bid showed naturally.

This was the full deal and auction:

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A93	
	♥ Q5	
	♦ AKQ32	
	♣ AK4	
West		East
♠ J852		♠ 10764
♥ K106		♥ J93
♦ J104		♦ 6
♣ 1082		♣ QJ953
	South	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ A8742	
	♦ 9875	
	♣ 76	

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	2NT <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>(4)</sup>
Pass	3NT <sup>(5)</sup>	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥ <sup>(6)</sup>	Pass	4♠ <sup>(7)</sup>
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ <sup>(8)</sup>
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

- (1) Artificial, strong
- (2) Artificial, negative or waiting
- (3) 22-23 balanced
- (4) Transfer to hearts
- (5) Not 3+ hearts. 3♥ would show 3+ hearts.
- (6) Something useful in hearts, with diamonds agreed as trumps
- (7) Cue bid, first- or second-round control in spades
- (8) One key card for diamonds

The play was comfortable, draw trumps, ruff a club, unblock spades, North-South +1370. In an international match, one side played in 6♦, the other in 3NT.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 5  
♥ A8  
♦ 8653  
♣ KQJ1072

2. Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♣	?	Pass	Pass

What would you do as North with:

♠ AKJ65  
♥ A9853  
♦ J  
♣ 82

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

*Advice for Seniors #2: 'In Style' are the clothes that still fit.*