

# 161. Brave New World

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What would you lead as West from:

♠ 432  
♥ A63  
♦ A4  
♣ J8743

Today's deals come from the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams)

Board 40: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North		East
	♠ AKJ10		♠ 865
	♥ 107		♥ Q9852
	♦ K10975		♦ 2
	♣ 106		♣ AQ95
West		South	
♠ 432		♠ Q97	
♥ A63		♥ KJ4	
♦ A4		♦ QJ863	
♣ J8743		♣ K2	

In answer to the question above, the easy answer is the ♣4 (fourth-highest) or the ♣3 if you play thirds and fifths or attitude leads (low-like). East would take the ♣A and return a club, preferably the ♣Q to reduce ambiguity in the club position. When South plays a diamond, West ducks. West wins the next diamond and East discards the ♣9 to clarify the picture. West cashes the three clubs and the ♥A to take 3NT two down. Easy, right?

This was yesterday's first question:

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ 865  
♥ Q9852  
♦ 2  
♣ AQ95

At the three tables where South played in 3NT, no West led a club. How come? Because at every table, North opened 1♦ and every East overcalled 1♥. Brave new world. Partner is a passed hand, you have 8 HCP, a heart suit of dubious quality and the vulnerability is equal. You are clearly outgunned and passing seems a sensible choice. It is hard to see any compelling reason or urgency to overcall 1♥. Yet every East did come in with 1♥. Clearly, I am a dinosaur, stuck in a bygone age.

Board 40: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AKJ10	
	♥ 107	
	♦ K10975	
	♣ 106	
West		East
♠ 432		♠ 865
♥ A63		♥ Q9852
♦ A4		♦ 2
♣ J8743		♣ AQ95
	South	
	♠ Q97	
	♥ KJ4	
	♦ QJ863	
	♣ K2	

The punishment for overcalling with a poor suit is that partner leads that suit. All three Wests led the ♥3 against South's 3NT.

Sweden North-South:

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

(1) Denies 4 spades

(2) Good raise to 2♥

West led the ♥3: seven – eight – jack. South played the ♦3. West grabbed the ♦A ('Haste makes waste' – Benjamin Franklin) and continued with the ♥A and the ♥6. South made ten tricks, Sweden +430.

With USA1 North-South, it went Pass : 1♦ : 1♥ : 3NT, all pass. West led ♥3: seven – eight – jack. South played the ♦3. West ducked. Declarer played another diamond. East discarded ♠8, discouraging, and West won. He switched to ♣7. East took the ace and put the ♥Q on the table. Success requires South to duck, but South's hasty 3NT gave him little information about the lay of the land. Had he bid more slowly (2♥ as a strong diamond raise) and West had shown a heart raise (perhaps by doubling South's 2♥), South might well have found the winning move of ducking the ♥Q. When he covered the ♥Q, West won and the heart return gave the defence six tricks, East-West +100, 11 Imps to Sweden.

South can always make 3NT on the ♥3 lead – thanks for the overcall, partner. At the other table, if West had ducked the first diamond, won the second diamond and switched to a club, West's 2♦ (good heart raise) was very likely to guide declarer to the right play after East takes the ♣A and brings back the ♥Q.

Poland North-South: Pass : 1♦ : 1♥ : 3NT, all pass. West led ♥3: seven – eight – jack. West ducked the first diamond, won the next diamond and switched to a club East took ♣A and played ♥Q. Michal Nowosadzki (S) played low and the defence could take only two hearts, a diamond a club, Poland +400. At the other table, England North-South, it went Pass : 1♦ : 1♥ : 2♥ (strong diamond raise), Double : 3♦, all pass. East led ♠5, North won and played trumps. North lost 2 hearts, a diamond and a club for +110, but 7 Imps to Poland.

In the Women's semi-finals, all four Souths were in 3NT. Only East for Netherlands passed over 1♦. When West led the ♣3, South was two down, +100 to Netherlands. At the other three tables, it began Pass : 1♦ : 1♥ and the results were North-South +430 twice and +400.

Seniors' semi-finals: The board was flat, North-South +430, in Poland vs Sweden. Both tables bid Pass : 1♦ : 1♥ : 3NT, all pass and West led the ♥3. After 1♦, USA1's East passed, South bid 2NT, all pass. West led ♣4, East-West +50. At the other table (Pass: 1♦ : 1♥ : 3NT, all pass), USA2's West led ♣4 anyway, +100, +2 Imps. It worked this time, but imagine the post-mortem if South makes 3NT and a heart lead would have beaten it.

Well, none of the results has persuaded me that the 1♥ overcall was a good idea.

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

North  
 ♠ AJ84  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ J74  
 ♣ KQ762

West  
 ♠ 10732  
 ♥ J102  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ A853

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

(1) 2-suiter, at least 5-5, hearts and another

(2) Not invitational

(3) Takeout

West leads the ♥J: king – nine (low like, high hate) – five. Declarer plays the ♣K from dummy: nine – four - ... Do you take it or duck? If you take it, what do you play at trick 2?

If you duck, declarer plays the ♠4: five – king – two, followed by the ♣10. Do you take the ace or duck? If you take it, what do you play next?

Board 41: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

North  
 ♠ AJ84  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ J74  
 ♣ KQ762

West  
 ♠ 10732  
 ♥ J102  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ A853

East  
 ♠ 65  
 ♥ 97643  
 ♦ KQ1065  
 ♣ 9

South  
 ♠ KQ9  
 ♥ AQ85  
 ♦ 983  
 ♣ J104

In yesterday's second question, the auction for this deal, with USA1 North-South, was:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥J: king – seven (low like, high hate) – eight. Declarer plays the ♣K from dummy. Do you take it or duck? If you take it, what do you play at trick 2?

For Sweden, Fredrik Nystrom took the ♣K at once and switched to ... the ♦A! East played the ♦5 (low-like). West continued with the ♦2 and East took four diamond tricks to defeat 3NT by 2 tricks, Sweden +200.

How did Nystrom find that switch? East had discouraged hearts, the defence could not collect four more tricks from the spades and declarer was tackling clubs. The only place the defence could find enough tricks to defeat 3NT was in diamonds. When you eliminate what cannot work, you are left with what might work.

Board 41: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AJ84	
	♥ K	
	♦ J74	
	♣ KQ762	
West		East
♠ 10732		♠ 65
♥ J102		♥ 97643
♦ A2		♦ KQ1065
♣ A853		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ KQ9	
	♥ AQ85	
	♦ 983	
	♣ J104	

At the other table, with Sweden North-South, West was on lead against 3NT after North had shown spades and South showed a balanced minimum, no bidding by East-West. West led the ♣3: seven – nine – jack. South returned the ♣4: five – king – ♥3. With two club tricks in the bag, South abandoned clubs, cashed the ♥K and claimed nine tricks, +600 and 13 Imps to Sweden.

To beat 3NT, West needed to take the ♣A at trick 2 and switch to the ♦A and ♦2.

In the other match, England's South was in 3NT after the problem on the previous page. East had shown a weak two-suiter, hearts and another. West led the ♥J, taken by the ♥K. East's ♥9 signal was discouraging. Declarer played the ♣K: nine – four . . . West could have taken this and switched to the ♦A and ♦2. After all, which was East's second suit? Not spades (South would not have bid 3NT with a spade void) and not clubs.

West ducked the ♣K. Declarer played the ♠4 to the ♠K, followed by the ♠10. West ducked again – no accolades there – and South had 9 tricks, England +600.

At the other table, David Gold (East for England) opened 2♥, showing a weak two-suiter with five hearts. David Bakhshi (W) bid 3♦, game-invitation in hearts – a psyche. East bid 3♥ and everyone passed. The defence began with three rounds of spades. East ruffed the third round and played ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q and a trump. The result was three down, –150, but 10 Imps to England.

Women's semi-finals: England North-South: 2♥ (hearts and a minor) : Pass : 3♥ : Double, Pass : 3NT, all pass. Joanna Zochowska (West for France) led the ♥J: king – three – five, captured South's ♠J at trick 2 and switched to ♦A and ♦2 to take 3NT two down, France +200. With France North-South, East passed, South opened 1♣. When North later bid an artificial 2♦, East doubled and South ended in 5♣ doubled, two off, East-West +500 and 7 Imps to England.

In Netherlands vs USA2, both Wests led the ♥J against South's 3NT. One West ducked clubs twice, North-South +600. The other won the second club, but played another heart, North-South +660, 2 Imps to USA2.

Seniors' semi-finals: Poland's North was in 3NT after East had shown the red suits. East led the ♣9 to the ♣A and West switched to ♦A and ♦2, Sweden +200. After Pass : 1♣ : Pass : 1♠, Poland's East overcalled 2♦. Sweden ended in 4♠ by North. East led ♦K. West took ♦A and returned the ♦2. The defence took 3 diamonds and the ♣A, Poland +100, 3 Imps to Sweden.

USA1 was in 3NT by South (Bob Hamman), no East-West bidding. West led ♥J, ducked the ♣2 to the ♠J and ducked the ♣4 return. USA1 +600. At the other table, USA2 North-South had a monumental misunderstanding and ended in 6♠ doubled with North declarer. East led the ♦K. West overtook with the ♦A and switched to the ♣A (North had shown club length in the auction) and the ♣3. East ruffed and played ♦Q and ♦10. West ruffed and returned another club, ruffed by East. That was five down, East-West +1400 and 19 Imps to USA1.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer South : Both vulnerable

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

(1) 12-14 points  
(2) Pre-emptive

What would you do as North with:

♠ QJ43  
♥ A7543  
♦ 63  
♣ Q7

2. Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?		1♦

What would do as North with:

♠ J6  
♥ J9532  
♦ J102  
♣ Q72

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

*It's hard to play the new bridge with an old bridge mind.*