

193. Bid versus Pass

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
?	Pass	Pass	1♠

What would you do as West with:

♠ QJ9
♥ A10763
♦ 10
♣ KQ97

Today's deal comes from the Round 4 match between Australia I (Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung – Jamie Thompson) and New Zealand II (Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell, Matthew Brown – Michael Whibley, Peter Newell – Martin Reid, Jonathon Westoby) in the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, held in August and organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League.

Board 4: Dealer North : Both vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 65		
	♥ 9854		
	♦ A62		
	♣ A1086		
West		East	
♠ QJ9		♠ 1074	
♥ A10763		♥ J	
♦ 10		♦ KJ953	
♣ KQ97		♣ 5432	
	South		
	♠ AK832		
	♥ KQ2		
	♦ Q874		
	♣ J		
West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Hung</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ♠6. South won with the ♠K and switched to the ♣J: king – six – two. West played the ♦10 and North rose with the ♦A and reverted to the ♠5. South took the ♠A and returned the ♠2, suit-preference for clubs. North ruffed, cashed the ♣A and brought back the ♠10. South ruffed and played the ♠8: ♣9 – ♦6 – ♥J.

Declarer ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♥A and exited with the ♥6 to South's ♥K. West was down to ♥10-7 and North had ♥9, ♠8. When South continued with the ♠3, declarer could not avoid losing a trick to North's ♥9. The defence had taken 2 spades, a spade ruff, the ♦A, ♣A, club ruff, ♥K and the ♥9, eight tricks, to take 2♥ three down for +300 to North-South.

There are a number of reasons for West not to overcall 2♥: (a) Partner East is a passed hand and West has only 12 points; (b) West's hearts lack the suit quality recommended for a 2-level overcall (Suit Quality Test for overcalls: add number of cards in the suit you wish to bid to the number of honours in that suit. Total should equal the number of tricks for which you wish to bid: Bidding 2♥ = 8 tricks, Suit Quality for A-10-7-6-3 = 7); (c) Holding three cards in opener's suit is a negative feature. North could be short in opener's suit.

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		♦ Q874		
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West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Cornell</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass!	1NT	Pass	2♦
Dble!	2♠	All Pass	

Having passed 1♠, West was able to double 2♦ for takeout to show the values for an opening hand and to ask East to choose between hearts and clubs. Playing 2-over-1, North's 1NT was forcing and South's 2♦ might have been a 3-card suit. Then again, of course, 2♦ might have been a 5-card suit. That's one of the headaches with the forcing 1NT. Sometimes you play in your 7-card fit instead of an 8-card or 9-card fit.

Against South's 2♠, West led the ♣K, taken by the ace. Declarer ruffed a club and played the ♥Q: ace – four – jack. West switched to the ♦10: two – king – four. Then came ♦J (suit-preference for hearts), ruffed, heart ruff, diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff. South finished two down, –200 and 11 Imps to Australia I.

The West hand would have been ideal for a place in *The Power of Pass* (see below), had it arisen when the book was in preparation. The relevant areas would have been passed partner, poor suit, length in opener's suit.

New Zealand 2 won the match by 25-16.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

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

(1) Natural and forcing

What would you do as North with:

♠ AQJ82
♥ KJ105
♦ K3
♣ 98

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

Dogs cannot operate MRI scanners, but catscan.

New book: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.