

255. Major difference

By Ron Klinger

With only East-West vulnerable, East deals and passes. South opens 1♥, 5+ hearts. West passes. What would you do as North with:

- ♠ 10865
- ♥ 942
- ♦ AJ3
- ♣ A54

As a general guide to responding, if your hand is worth only one bid (hands in the 6-9 points range), make the bid that best describes your hand if that is possible. Here you can bid 1♥ : 2♥ and your duty is done. There are downsides to responding 1♠. If partner bids 2♣ or 2♦, you would rebid 2♥, but now partner thinks you probably have only a doubleton heart. If there is interference, say, 1♥ : Pass : 1♠ : 3♣ or 3♦, Pass : Pass back to you. What now? A bid of 3♥ would be an overbid, suggest a game-inviting hand around 10-11-12 points. Passing would mean you have never shown your support for hearts.

The 1♠ response cost in a different way on this deal from the final of a Sydney teams' event in 2018:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

North		
	♠ 10865	
	♥ 942	
	♦ AJ3	
	♣ A54	
West		East
	♠ QJ3	♠ A742
	♥ A108	♥ 6
	♦ Q952	♦ K1074
	♣ J107	♣ 9863
	South	
	♠ K9	
	♥ KQJ753	
	♦ 86	
	♣ KQ2	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♣J. South won and tackled trumps. South lost a spade, a heart and a diamond, 10 tricks, +170. A 4♥ contract is nothing special, but it is reasonable. It needs the ♠A onside or West holding ♦K-Q and the ♥A. You might think that South with a 5-loser hand might have bid 3♥ rather than 2♥, but South has only 14 HCP and the hand is aceless. Give South ♠A-9 or ♥A-K-J-7-5-3 and there is a much stronger case for 3♥.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Trial bid

A 3♥ rebid over 2♥, if played as invitational, looks suitable. The clubs are too strong for a 3♣ long-suit trial bid, but it worked. North could hardly be much better, despite the flat shape. North-South +420 and +6 Imps.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♠

Dble⁽¹⁾ ?

(1) Takeout of spades

What would you do as North with:

♠ KQ107

♥ K76

♦ J1054

♣ 42

What would you answer be if West had rebid 2♣ instead of the takeout double?

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

Sweet dreams are made of cheese.

Who am I to diss a brie?

A great gift: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (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.
