## 255. Major difference

## By Ron Klinger

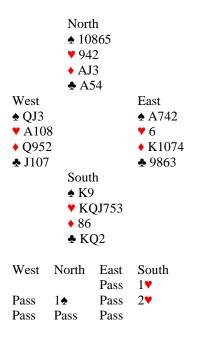
With only East-West vulnerable, East deals and passes. South opens  $1^{\diamond}$ , 5+ hearts. West passes. What would you do as North with:

- ▲ 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  $1 \lor : 2 \lor$  and your duty is done. There are downsides to responding 1. If partner bids  $2 \clubsuit$  or  $2 \blacklozenge$ , you would rebid  $2 \heartsuit$ , but now partner thinks you probably have only a doubleton heart. If there is interference, say,  $1 \lor : 2 \clubsuit$  as  $2 \clubsuit$ , Pass : Pass back to you. What now? A bid of  $3 \heartsuit$  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



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

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3 <b>♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Trial bid			

A 3 $\checkmark$  rebid over 2 $\checkmark$ , if played as invitational, looks suitable. The clubs are too strong for a 3 $\clubsuit$  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<sup>(1)</sup> ? (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: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email <u>suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</u> or telephone 0411 229 705.