

256. Praising raising (or not)

By Ron Klinger

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 your answer be if West had rebid 2♣ instead of the takeout double?

You have 9 HCP, which suggests 2♠, but there are two further positives for you. You have four spades rather than just three trumps and you have a shortage in the right place, the opposition suit, with nothing wasted in that suit. That entitles you to bid 2♣ (game-invitational spade raise) after West's double or 3♣ if West had rebid 2♣.

Another idea is to play Bergen raises after a major suit overcall in order to show the 4-card support. So here, after West's double, 3♣ = 6-9 points and 4+ spades and 3♦ = 10-12 points and 4+ spades. You and your partner will need to decide whether that approach is more useful than fit-showing jumps or natural jump-shifts after an overcall or a balancing bid.

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ107	
	♥ K76	
	♦ J1054	
	♣ 42	
West		East
♠ J		♠ 932
♥ A1085		♥ 9432
♦ A83		♦ 762
♣ AQ1076		♣ J83
	South	
	♠ A8654	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ KQ9	
	♣ K95	

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble ⁽¹⁾	3♣	All Pass	

(1) Takeout of spades

The South hand looks strong for a balancing 1♠, but with 7 losers, 1♠ is fine. It seems that South took 3♣ as pre-emptive, but the need for a pre-emptive raise is doubtful when the bidding began 1X : Pass : Pass. Had South taken 3♣ as invitational, South would have bid 4♣ for sure. West led the ♠J. South made ten tricks, +170.

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	North	
	♠ KQ107	
	♥ K76	
	♦ J1054	
	♣ 42	
West		East
♠ J		♠ 932
♥ A1085		♥ 9432
♦ A83		♦ 762
♣ AQ1076		♣ J83
	South	
	♠ A8654	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ KQ9	
	♣ K95	

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

(1) Good raise to 3♠

With East unable to gain the lead to play a club, South loses only to the three aces. West led the ♠J. South drew trumps, knocked out the ♦A, won the diamond return, pitched a club on the 13th diamond, knocked out the ♥A and threw another club on the ♥K for 10 tricks, +420 and +6 Imps.

Problem for Tomorrow:

With neither side vulnerable, North opens 1NT, 15-17 and South jumps to 5♦. What would you lead as West from:

♠ Q109762
♥ A983
♦ 109
♣ K

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

MY FRIEND DAVID HAD HIS ID STOLEN. NOW HE IS JUST DAV.

A great gift: *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.