256. Praising raising (or not)

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable

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West North East South

1♣ Pass Pass 1♠

Dble<sup>(1)</sup> ?

(1) Takeout of spades
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What would you do as North with:

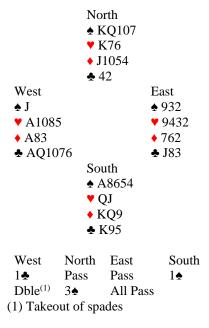
★ KQ107 **∀** K76 **→** J1054 **♣** 42

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♠.

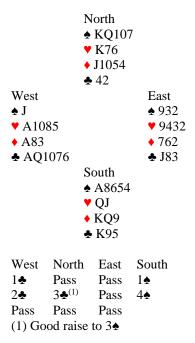
Another idea is to play Bergen raises after a major suit overcall in order to show the 4-card support. So here, after West's double, 3 - 6-9 points and 4+ spades and 3 - 10-12 points and 4+ spades. You and your partner will need to decide whether that approach is more useful than fit-showing jumps or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

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable



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

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable



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.