

269. The jump-starters

By Ron Klinger

With neither side vulnerable, West deals and passes. What would you do as North with:

♠ J3
♥ J5
♦ K105
♣ KJ10753

Counting losers, there are two in each suit, eight losers in all. That translates into five playing tricks. Add three to that brings you to eight, not the nine needed for a 3-level pre-empt. There are those who would open 3♣ at favourable vulnerability where they apply the Rule of 4. At equal vulnerability, both vulnerable or neither vulnerable, most would not be inclined to choose a 3♣ opening.

In the final of the 2018 World Open Teams and the Women's Teams, one North opened 3♣ and one North passed. In the Seniors' final, both Norths passed. It should be clear that I am a senior.

Which choice do you think turned out better?

Board 56: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J3	
	♥ J5	
	♦ K105	
	♣ KJ10753	
West		East
♠ K42		♠ 86
♥ Q1092		♥ A43
♦ J4		♦ Q87632
♣ Q986		♣ A2
	South	
	♠ AQ10975	
	♥ K876	
	♦ A9	
	♣ 4	

Open Final, [ZIMMERMANN](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	1NT	2♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♦J. South won and played the ♣4: six – jack – ace. East switched to the ♠6: seven – king – three. West returned the ♣4, won by the ♠J. Declarer ruffed a club, drew the last trump, crossed to the ♦K and cashed the ♣K, pitching the ♥6. Next came the ♣10, discarding the ♥7. West won, but had only hearts left and so South made nine tricks, regardless of the location of the ♥A.

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♥ J5	
♦ K105	
♣ KJ10753	
West	East
♠ K42	♠ 86
♥ Q1092	♥ A43
♦ J4	♦ Q87632
♣ Q986	♣ A2
South	
♠ AQ10975	
♥ K876	
♦ A9	
♣ 4	

LAVAZZA North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

If the North hand is par for a 3♣ opening at this vulnerability, then South's 3♠ is not warranted. West led the ♠2, dummy's ♠J winning. After ♦5 to ♦A, South played the ♣4: nine – jack – ace. East switched to the ♥3, king. South returned the ♥6: nine – jack – ace. East brought back the ♠6, ace. So far South had lost to the ♣A and the ♥A. After ♦9, jack, king, and the ♣K pitching a heart loser, South still had to lose to the ♠A as well as a heart, one down, –50 and –5 Imps.

Women's final, BAKER North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	2♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♦J. South won and played the ♣4 to the jack and ace. East returned the ♦8: nine – four – ten. Declarer made ten tricks, +170.

With SMITH North-South, North opened 3♣, South bid 3♠, North 4♠, all pass. West led the ♠4, jack winning. The ♠3 went to the queen and king. West switched to the ♥10, jack, ace. Back came the ♥4: eight – nine – five. After ♣9 to the ace, declarer had the rest, but was one down, –50 and –6 Imps.

In the Seniors, the auctions were Pass : Pass : 1♦ : 1♠, Double : 2♣ : 2♦ : 2♠, all pass and Pass : Pass : 1♦ : 1♠, Double : 1NT : 2♦ : 2♠, all pass. Both declarers made nine tricks, +140, no swing.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable

North

♠ A2

♥ K6

♦ J10

♣ Q987543

South

♠ K987654

♥ A103

♦ A32

♣ --

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

(1) Weak two

West leads the ♥Q. Plan the play.

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

Patience is a virtue. It is just not one of my virtues.

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.