

# 333. A matter of trust

By Ron Klinger

These were yesterday's questions:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
?			

What would you do as West with

♠ KJ92  
♥ 74  
♦ 873  
♣ Q1093

After you have made up your mind, suppose the bidding had been:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
?			

(1) Artificial, 16+ points

What would you do as West after this start?

The deal comes from the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl. In both auctions, both Wests passed for penalties. The outcome was not what they would have wished.

Board 89: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 85	
	♥ 862	
	♦ QJ952	
	♣ 762	
West		East
♠ KJ92		♠ AQ103
♥ 74		♥ QJ53
♦ 873		♦ AK1064
♣ Q1093		♣ --
	South	
	♠ 764	
	♥ AK109	
	♦ --	
	♣ AKJ854	

Where Johan Sylvan (East for Sweden) had opened 1♦, Frederic Wrang (W) led ♦3: queen – king – ♣4. Joel Wooldridge (South for USA2) led the ♠4: two – eight – ten. East switched to the ♥3, ace. South continued with the ♠6: jack – five – three. West played a third spade, ruffed in dummy. Then came the ♥6, queen, king, and the ♥10: ♦7 – ♥8 – ♥J. Declarer lost 2 spades, a heart and 2 clubs, but had 8 tricks, USA2 +180

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	North	
	♠ 85	
	♥ 862	
	♦ QJ952	
	♣ 762	
West		East
♠ KJ92		♠ AQ103
♥ 74		♥ QJ53
♦ 873		♦ AK1064
♣ Q1093		♣ --
	South	
	♠ 764	
	♥ AK109	
	♦ --	
	♣ AKJ854	

At the other table, where John Kranyak (East for USA2) opened a strong 1♣, Vincent Demuy (W) led the ♥7: two – jack – ace. Frederik Nystrom (South for Sweden) exited with the ♠4: two – eight – ten and East returned the ♥3: ten – four – six. South now had no heart loser. After ♠6: nine – five – queen, East played the ♥5: nine – ♣3. South lost 2 spades and 2 clubs for nine tricks, Sweden +380 and +5 Imps.

As East-West can make at least a part-score in spades, how would you allocate the blame between East and West for the results in 2♣ doubled?

Doubling a low-level contract for takeout is not attractive when holding a void, particularly because partner might pass for penalties and you have no trump to lead through declarer. Still, in this case, the East hand looked strong enough to withstand that.

My vote goes to West as the main culprit in both auctions. Partner's takeout double is asking you to pick a suit outside clubs and you have a respectable 4-card spade suit. A bid of 2♠ is enough. In spades, West's clubs are almost certainly useless as trick taking potential. After the 1♦ opening, the length in diamonds also argues against passing for penalties. However, the main reason not to pass is the vulnerability. South is vulnerable against not and is opposite a passed partner. Competent players do not step into the auction lightly under those circumstances. At unfavourable vulnerability, South would hardly ever have a hand which might go for 500 or 800 unless there is a freak layout. Most of the time it pays to trust opponents at unfavourable vulnerability.

*The bridge game that night among the staff members: (see Daily Bridge columns 331 and 332 for the prelude)*

*O'Malley: One heart.*

*Next: One spade.*

*Richard: Three hearts,*

*Next: Three spades.*

*O'Malley: Three no-trumps.*

*Next: Four spades.*

*Richard: Seven no-trumps.*

*Next: No bid.*

*O'Malley, scowling: No bid.*

*Next: Double.*

*Richard: Redouble.*

*No bid, no bid, no bid.*

*Richard: Your play, partner.*

*O'Malley, crestfallen: All right. I know it. Seven no-trumps, hmmph.*

*The lead is made and Richard puts down the dummy. Mrs. O'Malley's scowl grows into a broad smile. Richard winks. (Fade out) Of course, we deduce that 7NT makes, but we never see any of the cards.*

*(An early scene in the movie, [Spring in Park Lane](#), 1948)*

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠
Pass	4♠	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ 764  
♥ AK109  
♦ --  
♣ AKJ854

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

*This officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope, always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere. (British Military Annual Staff Appraisal)*