

# 339. The 2-Imp difference

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) 15-17 balanced

What would you do as West with:

♠ KQ8  
♥ 9  
♦ 1076  
♣ AKJ843

With three boards to go in the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, England led Poland by 205-201 and Sweden led USA2 by 248-234. Board 94 was a 3NT contract for East-West with 21 HCP opposite 6 HCP. Each declarer made nine tricks, no swing. Board 95 was also flat, East-West 2♠ making an overtrick on an uncontested auction with an 8+ trump fit for North-South.

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 94  
♥ KQ102  
♦ AQJ98  
♣ Q2

The last deal:

Board 96: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A10532	
	♥ 7653	
	♦ 542	
	♣ 10	
West		East
♠ KQ8		♠ J76
♥ 9		♥ AJ84
♦ 1076		♦ K3
♣ AKJ843		♣ 9765
	South	
	♠ 94	
	♥ KQ102	
	♦ AQJ98	
	♣ Q2	

With Sweden leading by 14 Imps, there was no way that USA2 could pick up 14 Imps here and so Sweden was in the final.

SWEDEN North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>W'dridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
		Pass	1♦
2♣	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	2♥
Dble <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2NT(4)	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

(1) Majors, usually 6+ points

(2) Strong raise to 3♣

(3) Good hand, some game interest

(4) Hearts stopped, minimum for the 2♦ bid

At the other table Vince Demuy (S) – John Kranyak (N) bid 1NT : 2♣, 2♥, all pass. The USA2 declarers made an overtrick in each contract, +130 and +140, +7 Imps, but SWEDEN had won the match by 248-241.

Board 96: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

North	
♠ A10532	
♥ 7653	
♦ 542	
♣ 10	
West	East
♠ KQ8	♠ J76
♥ 9	♥ AJ84
♦ 1076	♦ K3
♣ AKJ843	♣ 9765
South	
♠ 94	
♥ KQ102	
♦ AQJ98	
♣ Q2	

ENGLAND North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>No'sadzki</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
		Pass	1♦
2♣	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Rdbl <sup>(2)</sup>	2♥
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Majors, usually 6+ points

(2) Good hand

West had no difficulty competing after the 1♦ opening. North led the ♦2. West lost two diamonds and a spade, 10 tricks, Poland +130.

POLAND North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
		Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Transfer to spades

With two doubletons, South's hand is not pure for a 1NT opening, but the South hand is too weak for a reverse. If South opens 1♦, South might not be able to show the hearts conveniently. Given the favourable vulnerability, South opted for the 1NT opening.

West needed to be able to show the 1-suiter, but 2♣ would have shown clubs and a major and as 3♣ would have been pre-emptive, West passed. North did not have rescue Stayman available. As it happens 1NT : 2♣, 2♥ would have found their fit, but 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ : 2♥ would have been game-inviting. Therefore North chose the transfer to spades.

After Pass : 1NT : Pass : 2♥, Pass : 2♣, the North hand was unlimited and might have been bidding game next or inviting game. West thought it was not safe to bid and so 2♣ became the contract. ENGLAND was leading by 205-201 and needed to beat 2♣ to win the match. If they scored +50, they would lose 2 Imps, but win by 2 Imps. If 2♣ made, Poland would collect +130 and +11, +6 Imps, and win by 2 Imps.

One way to show the club 2-suiter can be found in the methods included in *A Good Game of Modern Bridge* (see page 226 and available from [www.ronklingerbridge.com](http://www.ronklingerbridge.com)) where (1NT) : 2♦ shows any 1-suiter other than diamonds.

Against 2♣, West led the ♣A and switched to the ♦6: two – king – ace. Declarer played the ♠9: queen – two – seven. West continued with the ♦10, ace. South could now make routinely by playing ♠A and another spade, but on the ♠4: eight – ace, East dropped the ♠J. South took the ♠J as genuine and did not play a third round of spades. He continued with the ♥3: eight – king – nine. Next came the ♦J: seven – five – ♠6.

The World Championship Book now has West playing a club: queen – king – ruffed, leaving this position:

North		
♠ 105		
♥ 765		
♦		
♣		
West		East
♠ K		♠
♥		♥ AJ4
♦		♦
♣ J843		♣ 97
South		
♠		
♥ Q102		
♦ 98		
♣		

According to the World Championship book, South now played a heart from dummy and East rose with the ♥A. Declarer could ruff the club return and lose only a spade to the king for +110.

According to the BBO records, East did not play a club after ruffing the ♦J. The BBO record has East playing the ♥A at that point, not that it made a difference, and South made eight tricks, +110, 6 Imps to Poland, who had won the match by 2 Imps.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT(1)	Pass	3♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	?

(1) 15-17 points  
 (2) 3-suiter, 4-spades, 0-1 heart

What would you do as South with:

♠ J1073  
 ♥ AQJ10763  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ 10

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

*Why do Americans sing 'Take me out to the ball game' when they are already there?*