

349. Dealing with a misfit

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♣
Pass	?		

(1) Michaels, majors at least 5-5, wide-ranging strength

What would you do as North with:

♠ AQJ83
♥ AQ843
♦ Q108
♣ --

The deal arose in a teams' event at the NSW Bridge Association:

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

North	
♠	AQJ83
♥	AQ843
♦	Q108
♣	--

West	East
♠ K974	♠ 1052
♥ J9	♥ K1075
♦ A9762	♦ K3
♣ K3	♣ Q1085

South
♠ 6
♥ 62
♦ J54
♣ AJ97642

At 7 tables the auction began 1♦ : 2♦ (majors) : Pass. With Martin Bloom (S) – Peter Gill (N), South bid 3♣, all pass. That seems eminently sound. The other choice would be for South to bid 2♥. In hearts, the likelihood is that the South hand is worth 2 tricks. In clubs, South will usually produce 5 tricks. North did well to pass 3♣, despite the club void. The South hand makes tricks with the long clubs, the North hand with the high cards. With the bad split in clubs, 3♣ was two down.

At another table, it went 1♦ : 2♦ : Pass : 3♣, Pass : 3♠, all pass. North has shown 5-5 in the majors. Partner has declined to support either. With no extra length in a major, North should pass 3♣. North went three down.

One North played in 2♣, +90. West opened 1NT, North bid 2♣ (majors), all pass. At another table, West bid 1♦, North 3♣ (majors) and South sensibly passed, –50.

At five tables, it began 1♦ : 2♦ (majors) : Pass : 2♥. At one table 2♥ was passed out, –50. At three tables North raised to 3♥, a reasonable game try. South naturally passed and all three went two down, –100.

The best North-South scores were for 2♥, +110. One auction was Pass : 1♠ : Pass : 1NT, Pass : 2♥, all pass. The other was 1♦ : 1♠ : Dble (4+ hearts) : Pass, 1NT : 2♥, all pass.

Two pairs were in 4♥, three down, –150. One South was in 3NT, four light, –200. Two North-South pairs were doubled and lost 500 for three down, one in 4♥ doubled and one in 4♣ doubled.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	?

What would you do with the South hand?

♠ AK

♥ AJ10

♦ 87

♣ KJ9753

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

Success: Some people have a way with words and other people . . . oh . . . not have way. (Steve Martin)