349. Dealing with a misfit

By Ron Klinger

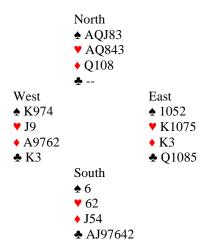
Dealer West: Nil vulnerable

What would you do as North with:

AQJ83✓ AQ843Q108✓ --

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

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable



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 $1 \cdot : 2 \cdot : Pass : 3 \cdot , Pass : 3 \cdot , all pass. North has shown 5-5 in the majors. Partner has declined to support either. With no extra length in a major, North should pass <math>3 \cdot . North$ 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 $1 \cdot 2 \cdot \text{(majors)}$: Pass: $2 \cdot \text{(majors)}$. At one table $2 \cdot \text{(majors)}$ was passed out, -50. At three tables North raised to $3 \cdot \text{(majors)}$, a reasonable game try. South naturally passed and all three went two down, -100.

The best North-South scores were for $2\blacktriangledown$, +110. One auction was Pass : $1\blacktriangle$: Pass : 1NT, Pass : $2\blacktriangledown$, all pass. The other was $1\spadesuit$: Dble (4+ hearts) : Pass, 1NT : $2\blacktriangledown$, all pass.

Two pairs were in $4\heartsuit$, 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 $4\heartsuit$ doubled and one in $4\diamondsuit$ 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)