

178. When two is greater than three

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A9
♥ 108764
♦ A
♣ KQJ98

Suppose you are playing Precision, a strong 1♠ system, where your opening bid is limited to 10-15 points. Would that change your answer?

Playing standard methods, one would rebid 2♣, no second choice. Playing Precision, you are at the top of your 10-15-point range for 1♥. That might persuade you to jump to 3♣. Had the bidding by your side started 1♥ : 1♠, I can certainly see a 3♣ rebid to describe your shape and values, but the bidding did not start that way. It went Pass : 1♥, 1♠. Now a jump to 3♣ becomes less attractive because partner will be below 11 HCP.

With your hearts so feeble and partner having two hearts at most, there is little prospect for 4♥. As for 5♣ or 3NT, if they are any chance, partner will make a forward move if you rebid 2♣.

The deal comes from the semi-final match in the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championship between [LEVINE](#) (Mike Levine – Eddie Wold, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell) and [TULIN](#) (Stan Tulin – David Bakhshi, Alon Birman – Dror Padon, Cornelis Van Prooijen – Louk Verhees).

Board 24: Dealer North : Both vulnerable

North	West	North	East	South
♠ KJ83	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wold</i>	<i>Tulin</i>	<i>Levine</i>
♥ 53	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
♦ J10742	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
♣ 103	Pass	2♥	All Pass	

West
♠ Q74
♥ QJ9
♦ K9653
♣ A7

East
♠ 10652
♥ AK2
♦ Q8
♣ 6542

West led ♥Q and ♥9 to the ♥K. East switched to ♣6. West took the ♣A and returned the ♣7. South won in hand and played a heart. When both opponents followed, South had 9 tricks, +140

At the other table. North-South were playing a strong 1♣ system.

South	West	North	East	South
♠ A9	<i>M'stroth</i>	<i>V. Prooijen</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
♥ 108764	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
♦ A	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
♣ KQJ98	Pass	Pass	Pass	

West began with the ♣A and the ♣7, taken by dummy's ♠10. Declarer played the ♥3: two – eight – nine. West switched to the ♦5: two – queen – ace. South cashed ♣K, ♣Q, to draw trumps and played another heart. East won and played the ♦8: ♥4 – ♦K – ♦7. West returned the ♥Q. East's ♥A was the fifth trick for the defence (a diamond, a club and three hearts). West's lead of the ♣A and the ♣7 to protect the defence's heart tricks is worth noting. Also note that East-West were never going to bid a game. Even a 3-level contract by East-West is in some jeopardy. [LEVINE](#) won Session 1 by 30-18 and Session 2 by 38-21 to lead by 68-39 at halfway.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		3♣	Pass
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ AJ
♥ AJ8
♦ KJ10962
♣ 97

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

Some drink from the fountain of knowledge. He only gargled. (British Military Staff Appraisal)

New book: *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.