

# 190. The light side of bridge

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

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

(1) Negative or waiting

What would you do now as South with:

♠ K97  
♥ A10  
♦ AQJ1086  
♣ AK

Partner is a passed hand and is likely to have a negative hand. It might be helpful to protect the ♠K from the opening lead and so you could bid 2NT, showing 23-24 points. You have only 21 HCP, but the long, strong diamonds certainly make up for the lack of a couple points. Some would even consider a rebid of 3NT. That is not safe, of course, but if safety is your primary concern, maybe bridge is not for you.

2♣ : 2♦, 2NT will usually be a balanced hand, but here 2NT is sensible, practical rebid.

The deal comes from the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, held in August and organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League (see yesterday's column for more details). Each match played different boards. This was Board 1 in Australia I (Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung – Jamie Thompson) vs Australia II (Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera, Matt Mullamphy – Ian Thomson – Ron Klinger).

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North		
	♠ A43		
	♥ J92		
	♦ 95		
	♣ QJ1062		
West		East	
♠ QJ10		♠ 8652	
♥ Q75		♥ K8643	
♦ K74		♦ 32	
♣ 9854		♣ 73	
	South		
	♠ K97		
	♥ A10		
	♦ AQJ1086		
	♣ AK		

West	North	East	South
<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Ashton</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT <sup>(2)</sup>	All Pass	

(1) Negative or waiting

(2) Natural, inviting slam

South's textbook 3♦ was certainly reasonable, but there was a huge price to pay. East led the ♥3: ace – five (low-like) – two. Declarer cashed ♣A, ♣K, crossed to the ♠K, cashed three more clubs and played the ♦9: three – eight – king. East had thrown a heart and so ♥Q and ♥7 to ♥K gave the defence four tricks, +50 for one off.

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A43	
	♥ J92	
	♦ 95	
	♣ QJ1062	
West		East
♠ QJ10		♠ 8652
♥ Q75		♥ K8643
♦ K74		♦ 32
♣ 9854		♣ 73
	South	
	♠ K97	
	♥ A10	
	♦ AQJ1086	
	♣ AK	

This was yesterday's problem: With neither side vulnerable, there are two passes to East. What would you do as East with:

♠ 8652  
♥ K8643  
♦ 32  
♣ 73

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>De Livera</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Braithwaite</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening light in third seat would normally be based on a hand of 9-11 points, perhaps an 8-count with a very strong suit. Opening with 3 points is known as a 'psyche', a bluff bid. I am not averse to a psychic bid, but it is a 2-edged sword. You might be able to talk the opposition out of their best spot, but it can also cost you heavily.

We will never know where South would have landed if East had passed, but 3NT by South had no problems whatsoever. After West led the ♥5: two – three – ten, South emerged with 12 tricks for +490 and 11 Imps to Australia II, but Australia I won the match by 27-24.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ J104  
♥ 108632  
♦ 54  
♣ K76

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

*People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid. (Soren Aabye Kierkegaard, 1813-1855)*

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email <a href="mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com">suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</a> or telephone 0411 229 705.
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