

291. No support vs strong preference

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

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

(1) Transfer to hearts

(2) Natural, forcing to game

What would you do as South with:

♠ A954
♥ A54
♦ K974
♣ A8

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?

(1) Transfer to hearts

What would you do as South with:

♠ A954
♥ A54
♦ K974
♣ A8

You have a nice hand for hearts, but the hand has only 15 HCP (minimum) and 7 losers (minimum). That makes a 2♥ rebid quite enough. To make a super-accept reply, the hand should have all three of these requirements: 3+ hearts, maximum points and a doubleton. After 1NT : 2♦, some play 3♥ as minimum with 5-support and a new suit (long suit trials) or 2NT as any super-accept, while others play 2♠ over 2♦ as any super-accept.

In today's problem at the top of the page, South should rebid 3♥ as 'strong preference'. That is stronger than 4♥ and should contain two of the three requirements mentioned above: 3+ hearts, maximum points and a doubleton. By bidding 3♥ here, partner knows that you like your hand for hearts, but you were not good enough to make a super-accept bid immediately over 2♦. With heart support and only one of the three requirements for a super-accept (or perhaps none), you would bid 4♥ over 3♣.

With the hand above, you are definitely worth 3♥. You have heart support, no wasted honours in any suit and a top-honour-doubleton in partner's second suit.

Like yesterday's, today's deal arose in the 3rd European Winter Games, 29 February – March 8, 2020.

Round 13: Board 7

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 8	
	♥ KQ863	
	♦ A8	
	♣ KJ632	
West		East
♠ KJ632		♠ Q107
♥ J72		♥ 109
♦ J63		♦ Q1052
♣ 104		♣ Q975
	South	
	♠ A954	
	♥ A54	
	♦ K974	
	♣ A8	

At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(1) Transfer to hearts

(2) Intended by North as a transfer to clubs (not a mainstream treatment), taken by South as invitational

Declarer took ten tricks, +180, but it is hard to agree with South's pass. With 2♦ showing 5 hearts and South having heart support and a doubleton, why would South not bid 3♥ over 2NT even it is invitational?

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	4♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

(1) Transfer to hearts

(2) Strong preference

(3) Cue-bid, hearts agreed (Some play 4♦ here shows control in spades, clubs and diamonds.)

(4) 0 or 3 key cards

West led the ♣10. South played ♣A, ♣K and ruffed a club low. West over-ruffed with the ♥7 and returned the ♥2. Declarer took this with the ♥K in dummy, ruffed a club with the ♥A and crossed to the ♦A. When the ♥Q drew the missing trumps, South claimed 12 tricks, +1430 and +15 Imps.

Suppose West had started with a trump lead. How would you play now as South?

Win with the ♥K, play ♣A, ♣K and ruff a club with the ♥A. Cross to the ♦A and ruff a fourth club with the ♥5. West can over-ruff, but you can win any return, cash the ♠A, ruff a spade and draw the missing trumps. Only two declarers made 6♥. They were Petros Roussos (Greece) and Alexander Dubinin (Russia). All in all, there were 29 declarer who went down in 6♥!

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ A93
♥ J5
♦ AKJ8
♣ 9865

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

A hard-boiled egg is hard to beat.