

328. The shy, retiring type

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	?	

(1) Pre-emptive, 4+ spades, 0-5 points

What would you do as East with:

♠ 6
♥ 10732
♦ 873
♣ KQ1086

Make up your mind before reading further.

Partner's double of 1♠ was for takeout. The double of 4♠ shows a very strong hand, but it is still primarily for takeout. East has only 5 HCP, but East might have had nothing. East is playable in two suits. The way to show that in this highly competitive auction is 4NT, showing a 2-suiter or a 3-suiter.

The deal comes from the [LAVAZZA](#) vs [SCHWARTZ](#) semi-final in the 2017 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams):

Board 20: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

		North		
		♠ Q853		
		♥ 96		
		♦ 1054		
		♣ 7432		
West		East		
♠ 109		♠ 6		
♥ AKQJ4		♥ 10732		
♦ KJ62		♦ 873		
♣ AJ		♣ KQ1086		
		South		
		♠ AKJ742		
		♥ 85		
		♦ AQ9		
		♣ 95		

This was yesterday's question:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dble	?		

What would you do with the North hand?

There are systems which allow you to give a pre-emptive raise with the North hand. Playing Bergen raises:

1♠ : 3♠ = 4+ spades, 6-9 points

1♠ : 3♦ = 4+ spades, 10-12 points

1♠ : 3♠ = 4+ spades, 0-5 points

1♠ : 2NT Jacoby = 4+ spades, 13+ points

The analogous structure applies for a 1♥ opening. Other systems exist where 1-major : 3-major is purely pre-emptive.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>M. Bell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Gold</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

As the cards lie, South can be held to seven tricks. West starts with two top hearts and switches to ♣A and ♠J. East wins and now a diamond switch will take 4♠ doubled three down. That would be -800 and a loss of 4 Imps against 4♥ or 5♥, which scores 650. Still, the defence is not always perfect, even at this high level.

West cashed ♥A, ♥K and switched to ♠10. South took ♠A, ♠Q and played ♣2. East rose with ♣K, winning, and switched to the ♦8: nine – jack – four. West cashed the ♣A, but was endplayed. A diamond would go into the A-Q and a heart would give South a ruff-and-discard. After the ♠10 at trick 3, South was always only two down.

Board 20: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North	
♠ Q853	
♥ 96	
♦ 1054	
♣ 7432	
West	East
♠ 109	♠ 6
♥ AKQJ4	♥ 10732
♦ KJ62	♦ 873
♣ AJ	♣ KQ1086
South	
♠ AKJ742	
♥ 85	
♦ AQ9	
♣ 95	

Note that in the preceding auction, East did not compete via 4NT over 4♠ doubled. Had East done so, West would bid 5♦ and East would remove to 5♥. In 5♥, East loses only a spade and a diamond.

West	North	East	South
<i>Danatov</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Weak raise

North led the ♠5. South won, cashed the ♦A and played the ♦9. West took the ♦K, drew trumps, and ditched his losers on the clubs, 11 tricks, +650 and 4 Imps to [LAVAZZA](#).

East has only 5 HCP, but with an 8-loser hand, it sure looks like a 3♥ bid over 2♠.

When the deal was replayed in a game on BBO:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	4♣	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

West also began with the ♥A, ♥K and ♠10 and so South escaped for –500. East bid 4♣ for the lead, but if you are going to compete, you might as well bid 4♥ or double for takeout, to show two or three places to play. If you are going to bid – and no one is saying you should bid - my choice would be 4♥. At least that way you are playing in game and if they bid 4♠, West might take the push to 5♥. Bidding 4♣ certainly sounds as though it denies 4+ hearts. Having only a doubleton club, West was persuaded to double 4♠.

I like this auction:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	4NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

(1) Two or three places to play

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North

♠ A8752

♥ 874

♦ 3

♣ K962

South

♠ 93

♥ AKJ106

♦ AK10

♣ 753

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(a) Do you agree with North's 4♥ bid?

(b) West leads the ♠10. Plan the play.

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

Every disaster movie starts with the government ignoring a scientist.