328. The shy, retiring type

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East: Both vulnerable

```
West North East South
Pass 1 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}

Dble 3 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}^{(1)} Pass 4 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}

Dble Pass ?

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

What would you do as East with:

♠ 6♥ 10732♦ 873♠ KQ1086

Bilde

Dble

Dble

M. Bell

3♠

Pass

Duboin

Pass

Pass

Pass

Gold

Pass

1**♠** 4**♠**

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):

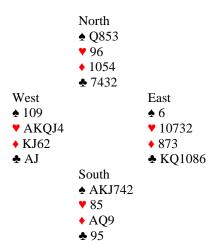
Board 20: Dealer East: Both vulnerable

	North		This was yesterday's question:					
	♦ Q853 ♥ 96 ♦ 1054		West	North	East Pass	South 1♠		
	♣ 7432		Dble	?				
West		East						
★ 109	09		o with the	North hand?				
♥ AKQJ4		v 10732						
♦ KJ62		♦ 873	There a	re systems	which allo	ow you to give a pre-emptive raise		
♣ AJ		♣ KQ1086	with the	with the North hand. Playing Bergen raises:				
	South		1♠:3♣	= 4 + spade	es, 6-9 poi	nts		
	♠ AKJ742		$1 oldsymbol{\spadesuit}$: $3 oldsymbol{\spadesuit}$ = 4+ spades, 10-12 points					
	v 85		1					
	♦ AQ9							
	♣ 95		The ana	The analogous structure applies for a 1♥ opening. Other systems exist where 1-major : 3-major is purely pre-emptive.				
West No	orth East	South						

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 A doubled three down. That would be -800 and a loss of 4 Imps against V or V, 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



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
Danatov	Madala	Stamatov	Bianchedi
		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♠
                 4NT<sup>(1)</sup>
                          Pass
 Dble
        Pass
 5
        Pass
                 5♥
                          All Pass
(1) Two or three places to play
```

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East: Both vulnerable

North

- **♦** A8752
- **v** 874
- **♦**3
- **♣** K962

South

- **♦**93
- **♥** AKJ106
- ♦ AK10
- **♣** 753

- (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.