

391. Each-way bet, one way better

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

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

(1) 15-17 points

What would you do as South with:

♠ 10742

♥ 10

♦ Q752

♣ AQ76

(1) 15-17 points

(2) Transfer to hearts

Make up your mind before reading further.

(Answer later)

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

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

(1) 15-17 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ KJ3

♥ AQJ64

♦ 984

♣ 92

You have a balanced 11 count in an 8-loser hand opposite a passed partner. General advice is not to compete over a 1NT opening with a balanced hand. One would think that goes double when partner is a passed hand and triple when you do not have the values even for a standard one-opening.

One might assume it would be automatic for North to pass, but no, in the quarter-final match between [FLEISHER](#) and [LAVAZZA](#) in the 2016 Vanderbilt (USA Knockout Open Teams), North for [FLEISHER](#) bid 2♦, showing 5+ hearts. South bid 2♥, all pass. This was the full deal:

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KJ3	
	♥ AQJ64	
	♦ 984	
	♣ 92	
West		East
♠ AQ		♠ 9865
♥ K8		♥ 97532
♦ AJ1063		♦ K
♣ J853		♣ K104
	South	
	♠ 10742	
	♥ 10	
	♦ Q752	
	♣ AQ76	

Against 2♥, West led the ♣5: nine – king – ace. South played the ♠2: ace – three – nine. West continued with the ♠Q, king and South returned the ♠J: eight (suit-preference for diamonds) – ten – ♥8. After ♦J to the ♦K, East switched to the ♥3: ten – king – ace. After ♥Q, South crossed to the ♣A, cashed the ♠7, ruffed a club and made 2 spades, 3 hearts and a club ruff in dummy, and 2 clubs in hand, eight tricks, North-South +110.

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KJ3	
	♥ AQJ64	
	♦ 984	
	♣ 92	
West		East
♠ AQ		♠ 9865
♥ K8		♥ 97532
♦ AJ1063		♦ K
♣ J853		♣ K104
	South	
	♠ 10742	
	♥ 10	
	♦ Q752	
	♣ AQ76	

Incidentally, do you agree with West's 1NT opening? After all, it does contain two doubletons. This is a good guide: If more than half your HCP are in the major-suit doubletons, then a 1NT opening is a reasonable choice.

LAVAZZA North-South:

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

(1) 15-17 points

If this shows a weak hand with 5 hearts, 4 spades, fine. If going through 2♣ suggests invitational values with the 2♥ rebid, the East hand is not strong enough for that. In that case, you should simply transfer to hearts.

As you have observed, the same contract (2♥) was played at each table, but in different directions. That almost invariably results in one pair being displeased with the result and often both pairs can wind up unhappy.

South led the ♥10, king, ace, and North returned the ♥6: three – ♣6 – ♥8. East crossed to the ♦K and played the ♥9: ♦5 – ♦6 – ♥J. After ♣9, four, queen, South switched to the ♠4, queen, king. North brought back the ♠3 to the ace. East discarded the ♠8 on the ♦A and played a club to the king and ace. South returned a club, ruffed by North, who cashed the ♠J. Declarer lost 2 spades, 3 hearts, a club ruff and 2 clubs, three off, North-South +150 and 1 Imp to LAVAZZA.

When the deal was replayed in a game on BBO, the auction began as in the question at the top of page 1.

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

(1) 15-17 points
(2) Transfer to hearts
(3) For takeout

The South hand is underweight for the takeout double, even for a passed hand. South should have an extra queen at least and preferably an extra king. No doubt South felt uneasy when North elected to play for penalties, but North definitely had the goods for a penalty pass.

North led the ♠9: king – ace – three. South continued with the ♠Q, followed by the ♠6 (lowest club as suit-preference for diamonds). North ruffed and shifted to the ♦9, taken by the ♦K. After ♥5: ten – king – ace, North cashed the ♥Q and ♥J and exited with the ♥6. Declarer still had a spade to lose. That was two down, North-South +300.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠
?			

(1) Drury, maximum pass and spade support

What would you do as West with:

♠ QJ105
♥ J76
♦ K5
♣ AK53

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

A man was injured in a bizarre accident during a Peek-A-Boo game. He is in ICU.