

226. Competitive action

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ QJ102
♥ J543
♦ KQ95
♣ 5

Today's deal come from Session 2 of the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Teams) quarter-final match between [DIAMOND](#) and [PIEDRA](#).

Board 16: Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ QJ102	
	♥ J543	
	♦ KQ95	
	♣ 5	
West		East
♠ 864		♠ AK53
♥ 108		♥ K92
♦ AJ84		♦ 762
♣ A642		♣ Q83
	South	
	♠ 97	
	♥ AQ76	
	♦ 103	
	♣ KJ1097	

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Dble	1NT	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This seemed a sensible auction. West led the ♠6: queen – king – seven. East cashed the ♠A: nine – eight – two and switched to the ♦7: ten – ace – five. West cashed the ♣A, followed by the ♦4, king. Declarer finessed the ♥Q, cashed the ♥A and claimed eight tricks, losing two spades and one trick in each of the other suits, North-South +110.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South	What would you do next as South with:
	Pass	1♣	Pass	♠ 97
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass	♥ AQ76
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥	♦ 103
Pass	Pass	3♦	?	♣ KJ1097

(1) Takeout, both majors

Board 16: Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ QJ102	
	♥ J543	
	♦ KQ95	
	♣ 5	
West		East
♠ 864		♠ AK53
♥ 108		♥ K92
♦ AJ84		♦ 762
♣ A642		♣ Q83
	South	
	♠ 97	
	♥ AQ76	
	♦ 103	
	♣ KJ1097	

In the Spingold:

West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Pollack</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥?
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Takeout, both majors

At teams, most of the time it does not pay to compete 3-over-3 unless you are very confident of success or you have enough to invite game. Here South had no strong reason to bid 3♥. Partner was a passed hand. That means North-South figured to have at most 20 points, probably less as North took no action over West's 1♦. Passing 3♦ would have been a better choice.

What would have happened if 3♦ had been passed out? North would lead the ♠Q. West is likely to lose a spade, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. That would be three down.

Personally, I liked North's Double over 1♦ in the auction on the previous page rather than North's pass over 1♦ and 2♣ back in later, as above. East's 3♦ is no thing of beauty, but when the opposition have a trump fit, it pays to try to jockey them out of the relative safety of the 2-level into the jeopardy of the 3-level. Not vulnerable, East has a stronger case for 3♦ than South has for 3♥ when vulnerable.

West led the ♥8: three – two – queen. As happened when South played 2♥, declarer lost two spades, a heart, a diamond and a club, but here that was one down, East-West +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Igla</i>
	Pass	1♦ ⁽¹⁾	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Playing a strong 1♣ system

I am not sure about the wisdom of the 2♣ overcall when vulnerable against not vulnerable and facing a passed partner, but South does have 10 HCP and the clubs are strong. It is hard to see how North-South could play in 2♥ after the 2♣ overcall. Most would play 2♦ by North as a strong club raise. Even if North did bid 2♦ and South bid 2♥, North could hardly pass that.

West led the ♥10: three – two – queen. South led the ♦10. West took the ♦A and reverted to the ♥8: four – nine – ace. Declarer played ♦K, ♦Q, pitching a spade. Declarer lost six tricks, –200 and 3 Imps to **DIAMOND**.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	1♥	Pass	?

Do you agree with South's 1♦ opening? What would you do now as South with:

- ♠ 932
- ♥ Q
- ♦ AQ983
- ♣ J532

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

Demonstrative definition humour: A figure of speech literally walks into a bar and ends up getting figuratively hammered.