



## BIDDING 6-PACK 21<sup>st</sup> May 08

### Problems

<b>Board 3</b>	<b>E-W Vul</b>				
♠ 6	South	East	South	West	
♥ A87			1NT	Pass	
♦ AQT8543	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	
♣ K8	??				

<b>Board 4</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>				
♠ K4	South	West	North	East	
♥ A4		Pass	2♥	Pass	
♦ AKJ9	??				
♣ AQT65					

<b>Board 5</b>	<b>N-S Vul</b>				
♠ K4	North	South	North	South	
♥ Q64	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	
♦ QJT87	??				
♣ K75					

<b>Board 8</b>	<b>None Vul</b>				
♠ T8	North	South	North	South	
♥ J754		Pass	2♣	3♣	
♦ QJ92	??				
♣ 983					

<b>Board 17</b>	<b>None Vul</b>				
♠ 6	North	South	North	South	
♥ AKT72			1♦	Dbl	
♦ Q9	??				
♣ AJ762					

<b>Board 32</b>	<b>E-W Vul</b>				
♠ KJT82	West	North	East	South	
♥	??				
♦ 4					
♣ KJT8542					

### Solutions

<b>Board 3</b>	<b>E-W Vul</b>				
♠ 6	South	East	South	West	
♥ A87			1NT	Pass	
♦ AQT8543	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	
♣ K8	??				

This one is more about methods than it is about judgment. Let's say that your 2NT was a Minor Suit Transfer, in this case showing Diamonds. Let's further suppose that you are part of an enlightened partnership which plays that 3♣ says "I *don't* like Diamonds". What next? Perhaps a better question is "What do 3♥ and 3♠ mean in this situation?" A common treatment is that this bid shows shortness. It's not necessarily a slam try, it could merely be an attempt to find the best game.

OK, so you bid 3♣, Partner bids 3NT. Do you give up on slam? Surely not! What is needed now is a Roman Key Card bid that allows N-S to play in 4NT (not enough Key Cards) or in 6♦ (enough Key Cards). The solution is to use 4♦ here as Minorwood. If you don't like Minorwood, then use 4♥ here as Redwood. Using 4NT here as Roman Key Card might work on the actual hand (if Partner has enough Key Cards), but it's a poor method, so we strongly recommend that you consider the alternatives.

<b>Board 4</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>				
♠ K4	South	West	North	East	
♥ A4		Pass	2♥	Pass	
♦ AKJ9	??				
♣ AQT65					

Opposite a Weak Two, South is no doubt thinking about slam. How do you play 2NT here? There are numerous methods available, our own favorite is a variation of Ogust, in which Opener's responses are as follows:

- 3♣: 5-card suit, any strength (after which 3♦ asks about hand strength)
- 3♦: 6-card suit, bad hand
- 3♥: 6-card suit, medium hand
- 3♠: 6-card suit, good hand

So, our choice would be 2NT, but when Partner responds with 3♦, showing a poor hand, we would give up on the slam and settle for 4♥.

**Board 5****N-S Vul**

♠ K4	North	Pass	South	Pass
♥ Q64	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
♦ QJT87	??			
♣ K75				

As in Board 2, this hand illustrates the dangers of two-level vulnerable overcalls. And it also illustrates the dangers of *not* making them. First, let us see what happens if North, having passed originally, chirps in with 2♦ over 1♥. Not so unreasonable, you might think, but on the actual hand an aggressive East might go for the jugular by passing, and then passing again when Partner makes a reopening Double. That's an easy 500 for the defense and a top board.

In that case, the overcall was not a success, but it will work out fine against a less aggressive East who will end up in 3NT. Now, the 2♦ bid will get Partner off to the right opening lead, holding the opponents' 3NT contract to 9 tricks instead 10.

And the moral to this story? Be *extra* careful with those vulnerable overcalls when the opponents are *non-vulnerable*. This deal is a case in point, as 2♦ doubled, when Red vs Red would be -500 against their 600 game. That's a real bargain, but not so when the -500 is against a 400 game. So, it's not just *our* vulnerability that counts!

**Board 8****None Vul**

♠ T8	North	Pass	South	Pass
♥ J754	Pass	2♣	3♣	
♦ QJ92	??			
♣ 983				

What are your methods here? As usual there are choices, here is a commonly used treatment:

**Dbl:** A *bad* hand. How bad? One that might have been about to make a "waiting 2♦" followed by a so-called "second negative". In other words, less than a King or Ace, probably less than two Queens also.

**Pass:** Some values (too good for a Double) but also a hand with nothing useful to say (no good suit in other words).

**Suit Bid:** A suit worth bidding as well as some values.

If these were our methods, then the South hand looks like a Double to us, it's not quite good enough for a value-showing Pass.

**Board 17****None Vul**

♠ 6	North	Pass	South	Pass
♥ AKT72	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦ Dbl
♦ Q9	??			
♣ AJ762				

Redouble here would show 10+ HCP's. Is that your choice? Surely not! N-S probably can make game, and the chances of getting a sufficient penalty are pretty remote, all the more so as the opponents appear to have at least 8 Spades. No, save the Redouble for hands which are more balanced, but with this strong 5-5 hand it is essential to start bidding suits immediately. So, a simple 1♥ is called for. This bid does not begin to show the strength of the hand, that will come later, to start with we do better to show our distribution.

**Board 32****E-W Vul**

♠ KJT82	West	Pass	East	Pass
♥	??			
♦ 4				
♣ KJT8542				

Would you open the West hand? It's not often that an 8-count passes the Rule of Twenty, but this one does! But, more to the point, if West does not start bidding his long suits right away he will never get to describe that hand. So, we would open 1♣, then rebid 1♠, then bid 2♠ next time around (we are assuming that, in the meantime, Partner is perversely bidding red suits and/or No Trump).

Next, suppose that the bidding develops thusly:

West	Pass	East	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
??			

That 3♣ bid suggests 5-7 in the black suits. Does that mean that West has done enough and should let Partner play in 3NT? We don't think so, this is going to be a highly disappointing Dummy! Our own guess would be to try 4♣, suggesting that maybe a 5-2 Spade fit is the way to go. West has good Spade intermediates and if Partner has honor doubleton then 4♣ could well have a play.