



BIDDING 6-PACK 18th June 08

Problems

Board 2

♠ KT96	East	South	West	North
♥ K742	Pass	1♣	Dbl	2♣
♦ 732	??			
♣ KT				

Board 7

♠ Q873	East	South	West	North
♥ A6		1♥	1♠	2♣
♦ QJT8	??			
♣ 654				

Board 21

♠ T53	West	North	East	South
♥ A		Pass	Pass	1♥
♦ KJ8743	??			
♣ JT2				

Board 22

♠ AJ2	West	North	East	South
♥ K			1NT	Pass
♦ K762	??			
♣ KJ842				

Board 23

♠ 9	West	North	East	South
♥ J53				Pass
♦ AJ864	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
♣ J854	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
	??			

Board 25

♠ 87542	West	North	East	South
♥ K6		Pass	2♣	2♦
♦ 82	??			
♣ T642				

Solutions

Board 2

♠ KT96	East	South	West	North
♥ K742	Pass	1♣	Dbl	2♣
♦ 732	??			
♣ KT				

Partner may have both majors for his Takeout Double, but he might well be 4-3 in those suits. Obviously, East would like to find the better major fit, are there any methods available to East in this situation? Here are two possibilities:

- **3♣:** This says "Pick a major". It also shows at least game-invitational values and we would say that East is not quite good enough for that.
- **Dbl:** This Responsive Double conveys the same message, but shows a weaker hand.

So, Double it is.

Board 7

♠ Q873	East	South	West	North
♥ A6		1♥	1♠	2♣
♦ QJT8	??			
♣ 654				

How do you evaluate the East hand?

- **A Preemptive Raise?** Absolutely not, this hand is way too good.
- **A Constructive Raise?** In the last Wednesday Game we encountered Constructive Raises in Competition (CRICs), in which a jump to 3♦ here would be used to show a 4-card raise with around 6-9 HCP's. This fits into that range and would be OK, we suppose. If you are not playing CRICs then you could show the same hand-type by bidding 2♣ and then 3♣ later, if necessary.
- **A Limit Raise?** We think that this hand is just about worth a limit raise, we'd upgrade it because everything appears to be working and we like that Diamond sequence. So, we'd cue-bid their suit. There are two such suits, which one would we cue-bid? One common treatment is to cue-bid the cheaper enemy suit with 3-card support, and the more expensive one with 4-card support. That being the case, we would bid 3♣.

Board 21

♠ T53	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ A		Pass	Pass	1♥
♦ KJ8743	??			
♣ JT2				

We like our two-level overcalls to be reasonably sound and this hand is hardly that. We also tend to preempt at the drop of a hat when we are White vs Red. Does this suggest a 3♦ bid? No, the suit is flimsy and we have an outside Ace. So a Pass is called for? That would not be bad, but we'd make a slightly underweight overcall of 2♦. We like the 6th Diamond, we like the vulnerability, and if our side has a profitable 5♦ sacrifice against their 4♥ then we certainly won't find out about it by passing.

Board 22

♠ AJ2	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ K			1NT	Pass
♦ K762	??			
♣ KJ842				

How vexing! We have the values for game, but which game? 3NT is a possibility, but we'd hate the opponents to rattle off 5 or 6 Hearts on the go. Then again, we'd hate to go zooming past 3NT to 5♣ or 5♦ when 3NT with a couple of overtricks is cold. And let us not neglect to mention that 4♣ could be the contract that hits the jackpot. Yes, playing in the 4-3 fit with a ruff in the short hand might well outscore all other contracts. And, as if all of that "Which game?" agonizing were not enough, there is also the possibility of slam.

As is our wont, we have a gadget for you. This is not the perfect hand for said gadget, but here goes anyway. The gadget uses a 3♥ bid here thusly:

- Precisely 3 Spades
- Shortness in Hearts
- 5-4 or 4-5 in the minors
- Values for game

We don't know if this gadget has an official name, we refer to it as "that 3-1-4-5 thing", or "that 1-3-4-5 thing" if the shortness is in Spades. The main purpose is to find the 4-3 fit in the other major when 3NT proves unplayable, and, failing that, a 5♣ or 5♦ contract. Of course, the fact that the singleton here is the King is not ideal, but no doubt West could not resist using the gadget and was willing to overlook that defect.

Slam makes but is difficult to reach. West will be discouraged by the singleton King, and can hardly expect East to have the perfect maximum. But getting to 4♣ will be a most profitable next best thing.

Board 23

♠ 9	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ J53				Pass
♦ AJ864	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
♣ J854	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
	??			

Let us assume that the East sequence shows 22-23 HCPs. Now what? If E-W are playing transfers, then 3♣ is freed up for other purposes. One common such purpose is for 3♣ to say "Bid 3NT, Partner, then I will tell you what kind of a minor suit hand I have". After Partner accepts the 3NT relay, here is one method for his follow-up:

- 3♣ says "I have a Club one-suiter"
- 3♦ says "I have a Diamond one-suiter"
- 3♥ says "Both minors with Heart shortness"
- 3♠ says "Both minors with Spade shortness"

If you use this gadget then reserve it for West hands with at least some slam interest. With lesser hands we would just bid 3NT in the hopeful expectation that it will score better than 5 of a minor.

One more consideration. Suppose that West bids 3♣, East takes the relay to 3NT, and then West goes on to show his hand-type. In subsequent bidding 4NT is to play, Opener needs a way to revert to No Trump when his hand is not suitable for a minor suit slam. On the actual deal, Partner bids 4♣ (both minors with Spade shortness) after which East can hardly do less than bid 6♣.

Board 25

♠ 87542	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ K6		Pass	2♣	2♦
♦ 82	??			
♣ T642				

After South throws in that 2♦ bid, West clearly cannot show a rotten Spade suit with a weak hand, so her choices are to pass or to double. A common treatment here is for Pass to show some values and for Double to show a weak hand. What is the definition of "some values"? Some partnerships define that as an Ace, or a King, or a couple of Queens. If that is the case then West has the weakest Pass imaginable.