



## BIDDING 6-PACK 2<sup>nd</sup> July 07

### Problems

<b>Board 7</b>	<b>Dlr South</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>
♠ AQJ4	<i>North East</i>	<i>South West</i>
♥ 2		<b>Pass 1♥</b>
♦ QT65	<b>Dbl 2♥</b>	<b>2♣ 3♥</b>
♣ AJT5	??	

<b>Board 13</b>	<b>Dlr North</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>
♠ 6	<i>South West</i>	<i>North East</i>
♥ JT54		<b>1♠ Pass</b>
♦ T5	?	
♣ QJT964		

<b>Board 20</b>	<b>Dlr West</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>
♠ AJ5	<i>East South</i>	<i>West North</i>
♥ AKT6		<b>Pass Pass</b>
♦ K	<b>2♣ Pass</b>	<b>2♦ Pass</b>
♣ AQJ63	??	

<b>Board 24</b>	<b>Dlr West</b>	<b>None Vul</b>
♠ JT543	<i>North East</i>	<i>South West</i>
♥ 42		<b>Pass 1♣ Pass</b>
♦ QJ92	??	
♣ 75		

<b>Board 30</b>	<b>Dlr East</b>	<b>None Vul</b>
♠ KJ8	<i>West North</i>	<i>East South</i>
♥ KJ86		<b>Pass Pass</b>
♦ KQ743	??	
♣ K		

<b>Board 31</b>	<b>Dlr South</b>	<b>N-S Vul</b>
♠ A5	<i>East South</i>	<i>West North</i>
♥ A8		<b>Pass Pass Pass</b>
♦ KT7	??	
♣ AQT832		

### Solutions

<b>Board 7</b>	<b>Dlr South</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>
♠ AQJ4	<i>North East</i>	<i>South West</i>
♥ 2		<b>Pass 1♥</b>
♦ QT65	<b>Dbl 2♥</b>	<b>2♣ 3♥</b>
♣ AJT5	??	

West's 3♥ in this situation is usually based on an extra trump rather than on extra strength, so we can be reasonably sure that there are 17 total trumps. If that translates into 17 total tricks then the chances are that one side can make 9 and the other can make 8. That being the case, and if both sides were non-vulnerable, it would always be right to bid 3♠ here, because either 3♠ makes or else it is a good save against 3♥. With both sides vulnerable, a double of 3♠ would change the arithmetic, but we would bid 3♠ anyway, it's the bid with different ways to win:

- Maybe 3♠ will make
- Maybe 3♠ is down one but the opponents won't double (we do have strong trumps so the likelihood of a Double is correspondingly reduced)
- Maybe 3♠ can be beaten but won't be due to an unfortunate lead or defense

On the actual board, the Law of Total Tricks is out by one, as there are only 16 total tricks, 8 for each side. Does that mean that bidding 3♠ was wrong? Not at all, in practice it worked out just fine, as the defense to beat 3♠ will not be found in real life and 9 tricks will be made.

### Boards 13 and 24

Two South hands with a common theme.

<b>Board 13</b>	<b>Dlr North</b>	<b>Both Vul</b>
♠ 6	<i>South West</i>	<i>North East</i>
♥ JT54		<b>1♠ Pass</b>
♦ T5	??	
♣ QJT964		

<b>Board 24</b>	<b>Dlr West</b>	<b>None Vul</b>
♠ JT543	<i>North East</i>	<i>South West</i>
♥ 42		<b>Pass 1♣ Pass</b>
♦ QJ92	??	
♣ 75		

After Partner has opened one of a suit, we'll almost always find something to say with a 6-count, and quite often also with a 5-count. The question in both these instances is whether or not to dredge up a response on those meager 4-counts. We would.

On Board 13 it would be a shame to languish in a 5-1 Spade fit when there might be greener pastures in Hearts, and even if Partner does not have 4 Hearts then 3♣ is likely to a better spot (look at those nice Club fillers!). So we'd bid 1NT and await developments. It's worth pointing out that, as quacky 4-counts go, this one is rather nice!

On Board 24, the South hand is also blessed with quacks and fillers. The shape is less exciting than before but there is the lure of that 5-card major and, if we do not bid, there could be a missed game in our future. So we would try 1♠ here. And if Partner now rebids a 12-14 1NT? Well, obviously we cannot leave her there, our side has combined assets of 16-18 HCP's and 1NT is most unlikely to be a success. So, we'd try 2♠ and hope for the best.

Board 20	Dir West		Both Vul	
	East	South	West	North
♠ AJ5				
♥ AKT6			Pass	Pass
♦ K	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
♣ AQJ63	??			

What are the rebid choices here? Just two, either 3♣ or an off-shape 2NT. Here is why we like 2NT:

- Notwithstanding that singleton K♦, this hand just plain looks No-Trumpish, don't you think? But, if that 5-card suit had been a major, we would bid the major, not 2NT, that would be the bid most likely to succeed.
- If we bid 3♣, there's a danger that we might miss a 4-4 Heart fit.
- Bidding 2NT limits the hand, whereas 3♣ is highly nebulous in the strength department and could be bid on any number of different strength hands. In fact, an auction which starts 2♣ 2♦, 3♣ is so unwieldy that we would actually prefer to open the hand with 1♣.

OK, we rebid 2NT, let's say that it shows 22-23 HCP's. Partner bids 3♣, we bid 3♥, and Partner bids 4NT. What does *that* mean? We suggest that it is quantitative, and that 4♠ be used as Roman Key Card here, but that is a matter for partnership agreement. Now for the final question "Do you accept the slam invitation?" We certainly would, even though we have only 22 HCP's the controls are good and we have a good 5-card suit as a source of tricks.

Board 30	Dir East		None Vul	
	West	North	East	South
♠ KJ8				
♥ KJ86			Pass	Pass
♦ KQ743		??		
♣ K				

Back on Board 20 East held a 3=4=1=5 hand with 22 HCP's which included the singleton K♦. On that occasion we favored opening 2♣ and rebidding 2NT, showing a balanced 22-23 hand. Well, here we go again! Suppose that you open this 3=4=5=1 16-count with 1♦ and that Partner, as is his wont, finds the response that causes most anguish, namely 1♠. Yikes! What's your rebid? Nothing seems right, does it? Not a Spade raise (3♠ would show 4-card support), not 1NT (12-14), not a 2♥ reverse (not good enough), not, not, not. So, consider, if you will, opening this hand with 1NT. That may not be entirely kosher with a singleton, but it is the King and 1NT does solve that awful rebid problem. The moral of this story is that sometimes a small lie on the first bid can avoid the need for an absolute whopper later on.

Board 31	Dir South		N-S Vul	
	West	North	West	North
♠ A5				
♥ A8			Pass	Pass
♦ KT7		??		
♣ AQT832				

What's the plan with this turbo-charged 17-count? Here are three possibilities, only two of which are awful:

- **Open 1NT:** Definitely not! There's nothing inherently wrong with opening 1NT with a 6-card minor, at least not in our opinion, but this hand is *way* too good for such an opening. It's at the top end of the range point-wise, and additionally has the power of a strong 6-card suit.
- **Open 1♣ and rebid 3♣:** This is a little better, perhaps, but not by much. Again it seems like an underbid to us, and it also fails to describe the true nature of the hand, which is No Trump, No Trump, No Trump.
- **Open 1♣ and rebid 2NT:** Yes, that's the ticket! We are a point shy of the 18-19 HCP range, but there's plenty of compensation for that trivial defect in the shape of the good controls and the long Clubs. We'd even say that this is a *good* 2NT bid.