

On the right side

by Ron Klinger

West dealer : Both vulnerable

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

⁽¹⁾ 3+ clubs

⁽²⁾ Asking for a spade stopper

What would you do as West with:

♠ A7
♥ AQ83
♦ Q98
♣ 10984

Today's deal (with humans North-South and robots East-West) is a replay on BBO of a deal played in a significant earlier event.

West dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 94	
	♥ J7542	
	♦ 10732	
	♣ 32	
West		East
♠ A7		♠ J65
♥ AQ83		♥ 10
♦ Q98		♦ AK64
♣ 10984		♣ AQ765
	South	
	♠ KQ10832	
	♥ K96	
	♦ J5	
	♣ KJ	

With humans N-S and robots E-W:

West	North	East	South
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♥ ⁽²⁾	3♠!
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

⁽¹⁾ 3+ clubs

⁽²⁾ Strong hand, 5+ clubs, 0-1 heart

If West had doubled 3♠, the likely result is three off, E-W +800. South took the risk to indicate a good lead to North. If South passes 3♥ and West bids 3NT, all pass, North might well lead a heart. After that, declarer would make ten tricks easily.

Against West's 3NT, North led ♠9: five – ten – ace. West played ♦A, ♦Q, ♦K, ♥10: king – ace – five and ♣9: three – queen – king. South cashed five spades, two down, N-S +200.

The tournament auctions on BBO:

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

⁽¹⁾ 5+ clubs, 10+ points, forcing

⁽²⁾ Stopper-showing

⁽³⁾ Stopper ask

Lead: ♠9. 7 tricks. North-South +200.

At the other table, after the problem auction at the top of the column, West redoubled to show the ♠A as a spade stopper. East bid 2NT and West 3NT (which is cold if played by East). South led ♠K, ace. East made nine tricks, +600 and +13 Imps.

One bridge player + an ounce of courage = a ton of success.