



Director: Dave Smith  
Scores: Karen Walker

Problems from Polish Bridge magazine

1. Matchpoints. E-W vul.

♠KJ ♥J ♦A954 ♣AQ9873

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Pass	?

(1) Weak.

Call	Votes	Award
3NT	9	100
Pass	5	80
Dbl	4	70
4♣	0	40
4♦	0	10

### Hoping for the best

Should you compete again? If so, which call is best? Those are the questions facing the panel. Half the experts say that bidding 3NT in this auction shows minors with your first suit (clubs in this case) at least two cards longer.

"3NT," says Rigal. "This is for the minors, not to play. Once you overcall, you can't bid notrump naturally, and this typically shows a 4-6 pattern."

Kennedy agrees. "3NT is a classic bid for the shape I have in the minors."

"3NT," echoes Falk. "I can't double with only two spades, and selling out to 3♥ when I have no idea what to lead has to be a losing proposition."

"Of course I bid not vulnerable at matchpoints," says Baze, who also prefers 3NT. "This shows a two-card discrepancy between the minors. If partner has six or more cards in the minors, I've struck gold."

Sanborn agrees with Baze. "There is almost no hand where we don't have at least an eight-card fit. I can't let them play 3♥ — only when partner has four hearts is it wrong not to balance with a double."

"I don't want to sell out," says Freeman, "and I would like a third spade to double."

"3NT shows the minors with longer clubs," says Montin. "This is not to play when they have bid and jump raised. Partner doesn't need much. I think a reopening double should have at least three cards in the remaining suits."

Four of the panelists do double, however, even though they hold a doubleton in the unbid major.

"Double," says Soloway. "I will follow with 4♣ over 3♠. The hand is too good to sell out to 3♥."

Robinson agrees. "If partner bids

3♠ and I correct to 4♣, partner should know I have the minors."

Some panelists are afraid that 3NT would be an ambiguous call.

"We don't expect partner to jump to 4♠ over our double," say the Sutherlins. "He didn't take any action over 3♥, nor did he open 2♠. 3NT for the minors is a scary bid."

The Colchamiro also double. "We would like to bid 3NT for takeout, but we know that not everyone would read it that way. Over 3♠, we're planning to bid 4♣ showing long clubs and secondary diamonds. Pass could be a winner, but seems too conservative."

Five panelists did pass.

"Pass," says Meckstroth. "Perhaps I should risk balancing, but it seems too dangerous."

Lawrence agrees. "Trying to bring diamonds into the picture is a bit much."

"Pass, but reluctantly," says Cohen. "If I were sure he would read 3NT as takeout, I might try it. I can't double because partner will surely bid spades (you know how partners are). There is an excellent chance that 3♥ is down, and that we can't make anything above 3♥."

Walker also passes. She sums up



### It's Your Call is now online!

Dues-paid ACBL members can test their bidding skills via the Internet with this fun, new feature.

Visit the ACBL web site at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) and click on the 'My ACBL' link in the top left corner. New visitors to My ACBL must register for a password.