

# Maritha's Teaching Points

## Vulnerability Issues

By Maritha Pottenger

[marithapottenger@gmail.com](mailto:marithapottenger@gmail.com)



Hands are from ACBL game on BBO, August 14, 2021

### Hand #1

North  
(Kenmon)

♠K32

♥A9

♦K9

♣AKJ1042

West

♠AJ109874

♥102

♦1065

♣8

East

♠Q6

♥Q643

♦AQ4

♣97653

South

(MarithaP)

♠5

♥KJ875

♦J8732

♣Q3

N/S Vul; Dealer East

### The Bidding:

West	North	East	South
		P	P
3♠	3NT	4♠	P
P	X	P	P
P			

After two passes, West opened 3♠ (white vs. red). Ken Monzingo made the best bid of 3NT. He has a potential SOT (source of tricks) club suit, and stoppers in the other three suits. Ken can come to 9 tricks with a spade lead: 6 clubs, 2 hearts; 1 spade—and risk the heart finesse for a tenth trick if he wants to live really dangerously. [That would not be advisable in hands like this. Just making a game rates to be

an excellent score. No need to risk the contract with an overtrick when not everyone will bid game with the North hand. However, sometimes West's discards will make it crystal clear that East has the ♥Q.]

Unfortunately for us, East took the sacrifice at 4♠, which Ken doubled. Since we can make 4♥ or 3NT, collecting 300 for two undertricks was only a 60% board. 5♣ has no play with a spade out and a diamond shift.

### Hand #2

North (Kenmon)	
♠752	
♥Q1082	
♦42	
♣KQ64	
West	East
♠3	♠K86
♥K73	♥J96
♦KJ109876	♦Q5
♣J10	♣A9852
South (MarithaP)	
♠AQJ1094	
♥A54	
♦A3	
♣73	

N/S Vul; Dealer East

### The Bidding:

West	North	East	South
		P	1♠
3♦	3♠	5♦	X
P	P	P	

Once again, our opponents sacrificed because the vulnerability (white vs. red) favored them. This time, however, we got a 70% board for doubling them off. Ken led a spade and I put in the 9. I shifted to the ♥A and a heart. **I canNOT afford to give West time to develop the club suit in Dummy.** West won the King, but Ken signaled encouragement in hearts.

Declarer played the ♣J, which Ken covered, and the Ace won on Dummy as I gave count. A club to the 10 fetched Ken's other high club. Ken cashed his ♥Q, and reverted to spades. I was still coming to my ♦A. Down three, doubled, gave us +500. ♣