

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

Bumble Stop -- Problem

♠ J 4  
 ♥ Q 9 8  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ 9 8 5 4 3

♠ 8 5 3  
 ♥ 10 6 4 3  
 ♦ 6 3  
 ♣ A K Q 7



West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Jim</i>	
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass!	Pass	Pass	
3 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♣ K			

Even before the opening lead, South starts berating North for passing his forcing 3♥ bid. He said he wanted to play either 3 NT or four of a major.

Join me as we lead the ♣ K (second highest from touching honors) against this unusual auction. Partner follows with the ♣ 2, which is either a singleton or doubleton (UDAC). Therefore, we continue with the ♣ Q; both partner and declarer follow again. What now?

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

Bumble Stop -- Solution

♠ 8 5 3	♠ J 4	♠ K Q 9									
♥ 10 6 4 3	♥ Q 9 8	♥ J 5									
♦ 6 3	♦ A K Q	♦ 10 9 7 5 4 2									
♣ A K Q 7	♣ 9 8 5 4 3	♣ J 2									
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	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A 10 7 6 2										
	♥ A K 7 2										
	♦ J 8										
	♣ 10 6										

NS 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 2N; NS 2♣; NS 1♦; Par +140

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Jim</i>	
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♥!
Pass!	Pass	Pass	
3 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♣ K			

Of course, we continue with the ♣ 7, preserving our club control, expecting partner to ruff with a suitably high trump. Even the ♥ 7 would be helpful. Partner, knowing where the ♣ A is, duly deposits the ♥ J on this trick. Attempting to retain control, declarer discards a spade. Partner leads a diamond to dummy.

Declarer cashes the ♥ Q and leads another back to the ♥ K, getting the bad news. Declarer decides to use the diamonds now, playing off the last two. We ruff and lead the ♥ 10, our final trump, squashing dummy's nine. Declarer leads to the ♠ J; partner wins and has an easy exit with a diamond to declarer's last trump. Declarer is left with ♠ A10 and must concede the last trick to partner for two down.

Surprise, South has a minimum 2♥ bid, and nothing close to a game-forcing 3♥ bid! Furthermore, declarer can easily make another trick or two, either by ruffing or by leading a spade from dummy. He likely would have played better, had the ♦ Q been a small card.

Dummy has played bridge off & on for decades, but not strongly. Declarer is better than he showed on this hand, but he seems to have upset himself during the bidding. Talking about the hand at the table -- especially during the play of the hand -- is not helpful to your game. (I wish I were better at taking my own advice.)