## 93. Virtue rewarded and unrewarded

## By Ron Klinger

Try this problem:

East dealer: Both vulnerable

North

- **♦** A10853
- **♥** K9
- **♦** 543
- **♣** 965

South

- ♠ KJ7
- **♥** QJ6
- **♦** J96
- ♣ AKQ3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	2 <b>♥</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) 15-17 points
- (2) Transfer to spades
- (3) Inviting game

West leads the  $\clubsuit 2$ : five – eight – ace. Plan the play?

If you can collect five spade tricks, you have nine tricks if clubs are 3-3. That is possible but not very likely. As soon as they gain the lead, the defenders can take at least four diamonds and the  $\checkmark$ A, even assuming that you do collect five spade tricks.

How should you play the spades? With no other concerns, you should start with ♠K, ♠J. It is a guess which opponent has the ♠Q, but ♠K, then ♠J caters for Q-9-x-x on your left. If you do play ♠7 to ♠A and finesse the ♠J, even if that works you have no sure re-entry to dummy. No one has promised you that the ♥A is onside.

In practice, declarer played the ♥6 at trick 2: three – king – four. What now?

This was the first of yesterday's problems:

East dealer: Both vulnerable

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North

♠ A10853

▼ K9

• 543

♣ 965

West

♠ Q642

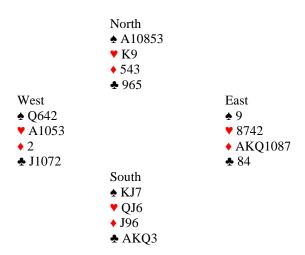
▼ A1053
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Trick 1:  $\clubsuit 2$  – five – eight – ace Trick 2:  $\blacktriangledown 6$  – three – king – four

◆ 2 ◆ J1072

Trick 3: ♠3 – nine – jack . . . How would you defend?

East dealer: Both vulnerable



## At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the  $\clubsuit$ J. South won and played the  $\blacktriangledown$ 6: three – king – two and the  $\blacktriangledown$ 9 to the queen and ace. West returned the  $\clubsuit$ 2, won by the  $\clubsuit$ 9. Then came  $\spadesuit$ K,  $\blacktriangledown$ J discarding  $\spadesuit$ 3,  $\spadesuit$ 7 to  $\spadesuit$ A, club to  $\clubsuit$ Q,  $\spadesuit$ K discarding  $\spadesuit$ 4 and South had ten tricks, +170.

At the other table, South was in 3NT after 1NT:  $2^{\blacktriangledown}$ ,  $2^{\blacktriangle}$ : 2NT, 3NT, all pass. West led the  ${\clubsuit}2$ :  $\sin - \operatorname{eight} - \operatorname{ace}$ . Declarer played  ${\blacktriangledown}6$ : three  $- \operatorname{king} - \operatorname{four}$ . Declarer could now make nine tricks via a low spade to the  ${\clubsuit}K$ , followed by  ${\clubsuit}J$ , letting it run if West plays low.

Fearful that if the finesse lost to East, a diamond switch would be forthcoming, South continued with the  $\pm 3$ : nine – jack – queen. South's idea was that if the spade finesse lost to West, it would be harder for West to find the diamond switch. West let South down. Winning with the  $\pm Q$ , West switched to the  $\pm 2$ . East took six diamond tricks and the A meant four down, East-West +400.

How did West come to the ◆2 switch? As with most critical decisions, counting shows the way. East's ♣8 at trick 1 marked South with ♣A-K-Q. South's play of the ♥K and spade to the ♠J, meant that South must have started with ♠K-J-x (or, strangely, at worst ♠K-J). South would hardly play a low heart to the ♥K without the ♥Q. That gave South 9 HCP in clubs, 4 HCP in spades and 2 HCP in hearts. That placed East with at least A-K in diamonds.

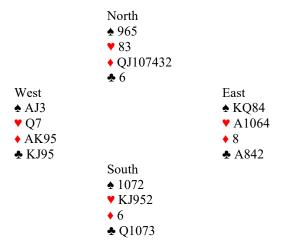
What contract would you like to be in on the East-West cards? How would you (a) bid it? (b) play it?

West	East
♠ AJ3	<b>♠</b> KQ84
<b>♥</b> Q7	<b>♥</b> A1064
♦ AK95	<b>♦</b> 8
<b>♣</b> KJ95	♣ A842

At one table, it went  $1 \cdot 1 \cdot 2NT : 3 \cdot 4$  (4 spades, 4 hearts exactly), 3NT : 4NT (inviting slam), all pass. East felt that  $4 \cdot 4$  over 3NT was not warranted. West could be 3=3=4=3 or 5-3-3-2 with 5 diamonds. North led the  $4 \cdot 4$  West won, crossed to the  $4 \cdot 4$ , finessed the  $4 \cdot 4$ , followed by the  $4 \cdot 4$  to the  $4 \cdot 4$  Declarer made ten tricks,  $4 \cdot 4$  +  $4 \cdot 4$  +  $4 \cdot 4$  over  $4 \cdot 4$  +  $4 \cdot 4$  +  $4 \cdot 4$  over  $4 \cdot 4$  +  $4 \cdot 4$ 

At the other table, the auction was  $2 ilde{\bullet}$  (18-20 balanced),  $2 ilde{\bullet}$  (forcing 2NT), 2NT :  $3 ilde{\bullet}$  (asking),  $3 ilde{\bullet}$  (no 5-card major),  $4 ilde{\bullet}$  (4=4=1=4, slam interest) :  $5 ilde{\bullet}$ ,  $6 ilde{\bullet}$ , all pass. West could have made a stronger club raise via  $4 ilde{\bullet}$  over  $4 ilde{\bullet}$ . Would you be happy to be in  $6 ilde{\bullet}$ ? South leads the  $6 ilde{\bullet}$ 6. Plan the play. It looks easy enough – all you need is clubs 3-2 or the  $8 ilde{\bullet}$ Q singleton – but the actual layout thwarted declarer.

South dealer: Nil vulnerable



Against 64, South led the  $\bullet$ 6, ace. East played  $\bullet$ K,  $\bullet$ A,  $\bullet$ 4 to the  $\bullet$ A,  $\bullet$ 5, ruffed with the  $\bullet$ 8 and over-ruffed with the  $\bullet$ 10. South cashed the  $\bullet$ Q and East finished two down, -100 and -11 Imps.

## **Problems for Tomorrow:**

1. East dealer: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	<b>4</b> ♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	<b>5♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

(1) 0 or 3 key cards for diamonds

What would you lead as West from:

- **★** KJ9642
- **♥** J84
- **♦** 74
- **♣** 54
- 2. East dealer: North-South vulnerable

North

- **★** 42
- **♥** A85
- ♦ AK92
- ♣ Q532

South

- **♠** 10
- **♥** KQJ10763
- **4**
- ♣ K864

West	North	East	South
		Pass	4♥
4♠	5♥	Dble	All Pass

West leads the ♠A and switches to the ♣J: two – seven – king. Plan the play.

Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

Some people are not shaking hands because of the Coronavirus. I am not shaking hands because everyone is out of toilet paper.