

160. Double vision

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	4♥	Pass
Pass	?		

(1) 4+ spades

What would do as North with:

♠ J10843
♥ 87
♦ AQJ73
♣ J

Sartaj Hans of Sydney submitted today's deals, which arose in the quarter-finals of the playoffs to select the 2019 Australian Open Team.

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J10843	
	♥ 87	
	♦ AQJ73	
	♣ J	
West		East
♠ 6		♠ AQ2
♥ AQ632		♥ J10954
♦ 964		♦ 108
♣ KQ92		♣ 764
	South	
	♠ K975	
	♥ K	
	♦ K52	
	♣ A10853	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hans</i>		<i>Gill</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦ ⁽¹⁾
1♥	1♠ ⁽²⁾	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Playing a strong 1♣ system

(2) 5+ spades

East lead the ♠4. North had no trouble coming to ten tricks, North-South +620. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Edgton</i>		<i>Hung</i>	
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	4♥	All Pass

(1) 4+ spades

North led the ♣J. The ♣A and a club ruff, plus two diamond tricks, would put paid to that. Indeed, ♣A, ♣3 return (suit-preference for diamonds), ♦A, ♦3 to ♦K and another club ruff would take 4♥ two down. That did not happen and West made ten tricks for +420, a double game swing for +14 Imps.

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

		North	
		♠ J10843	
		♥ 87	
		♦ AQJ73	
		♣ J	
West		East	
♠ 6		♠ AQ2	
♥ AQ632		♥ J10954	
♦ 964		♦ 108	
♣ KQ92		♣ 764	
		South	
		♠ K975	
		♥ K	
		♦ K52	
		♣ A10853	

Regarding the outcome on this deal in his match, Hans commented, 'At the other table, North doubled 1♥, showing 4+ spades, the modern trend. Modern trends have costs as this hand shows. My hand (North) passed 4♥ for 14 Imps out.'

The fault might lie not so much in North's double over 1♥ to show 4+ spades, but in North's disinclination to take action over 4♥. This is what happened in the match on BBO:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 4+ spades

(2) For takeout, 'Do what's right, partner'.

West led the ♥A and shifted to the ♣K. Jon Free (S) won and played the ♠K. East took the ♠A, cashed the ♠Q and played the ♥10. South ruffed, drew the last trump and cashed the diamonds for ten tricks, +620.

At the other table

West	North	East	South
	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♠ ⁽²⁾
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 5-5 at least including at least one major

(2) Pass or correct.

West led ♣K. South won, ruffed a club and played ♠J, winning, and another spade, 11 tricks, +200 but -9 Imps. This 2♦ opening leaves something to be desired, with so much ambiguity as to the suits held. You can see South's problem. North might have held hearts and diamonds.

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3NT	?	

(1) 15-17 points

What would you do as East with:

♠ AJ97653
♥ Q
♦ 852
♣ A4

Board 46: Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

		North		
		♠ Q8		
		♥ J2		
		♦ QJ94		
		♣ QJ975		
West			East	
♠ 42			♠ AJ97653	
♥ A1098654			♥ Q	
♦ 763			♦ 852	
♣ 3			♣ A4	
		South		
		♠ K10		
		♥ K73		
		♦ AK10		
		♣ K10862		

In the problem above, you can be pretty confident that West is about to lead a heart. Is there a way to direct partner to lead a spade? After a 1NT : 3NT sequence, some play that double asks for a spade lead. Others use the double to say, ‘Lead your shorter major’. The double does not come with guarantees – South could have ♠K-Q-10, after all – but a spade lead has to be your best chance.

This was yesterday’s second problem:

West	North	East	South
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass
(1) 15-17 points			

What would you lead as West? (See the deal above.)

After 1NT : Pass : 3NT, Andy Hung (E) did double and Nabil Edgtton led the ♠4: eight – jack – king. South might have cashed the diamond winners first, but elected to knock out the ♠A. East played the ♠A and when the ♠10 fell, he ran five more spade winners. Declarer had to find five discards from hand and five from dummy. Expecting the ♥A to be with East, declarer discarded the ♥2 from dummy and the ♥3 from hand . After East finished the spades, he switched to the ♥Q and South covered with the ♥K, taken by the ace. The result was eight down, East-West +2000.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Henbest</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>Hans</i>
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
3♥	3NT	All Pass	

Max Henbest (W) showed he did not need any lead-directing double and led the ♠4! South won trick 1 and also played a club at trick 2. David Wiltshire (E) played the ♠A and rattled off five more spades. Declarer retained ♥J-2 in dummy and ♥K-7-3 in hand and so the result was ‘only’ four down, –200, but +18 Imps.

In the match on BBO, the auction went 1NT : 2♦ (single-suiter in a major) : 3NT : Double, all pass. West took the double to ask for the lead of his major and began with the ♥10: jack – queen – king. Declarer played the ♣2: three – queen – four. As the cards lie, declarer could play another club and come to ten tricks. However, trick 2 persuaded South that the ♠A was with West. Rather than play another club and find West winning to cash six more hearts, South took four diamond tricks and then played a spade. He thus came to seven tricks, –300.

South might have considered that if West had started with ♥A-10-9-x-x-x or ♥A-10-9-x-x-x-x and the ♠A as well, West would have grabbed the ♠A at trick 2 and run the hearts. Clearly, the penalty double puts much more pressure on declarer.

At the other table, it went 1NT : 3♥ : 3NT, all pass. West also led the ♥10: jack – queen – king. South played the ♣K next. East took the ♠A and switched to the ♠7. When the ♠10 won, South claimed 10 tricks, +430 and +12 Imps.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ 865
♥ Q9852
♦ 2
♣ AQ95

2. Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North		
	♠ AJ84		
	♥ K		
	♦ J74		
	♣ KQ762		
West			
♠ 10732			
♥ J102			
♦ A2			
♣ A853			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥J: king – seven (low like, high hate) – eight. Declarer plays the ♣K from dummy. Do you take it or duck? If you take it, what do you play at trick 3?

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

My relationship with whiskey is on the rocks.