

191. The eternal lightness of the spotless mind

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	Pass	1NT
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ KQ832
♥ K
♦ AK762
♣ 32

Australian and New Zealand teams played each other in the early rounds of the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, held in August and organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League. In Round 1 Australia 1 (Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung – Jamie Thompson) defeated Australia 2 (Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera, Matt Mullamphy – Ian Thomson – Ron Klinger) by 27 Imps to 24. In Round 2, Australia 2 defeated New Zealand 1 (Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Matthew McManus – Michael Ware, James Coutts – Justin Mill) by 7 Imps to 4.

Board 7: Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
♠ KQ832	♠ 5	♠ J104	♠ A976
♥ K	♥ A754	♥ 108632	♥ QJ9
♦ AK762	♦ J103	♦ 54	♦ Q98
♣ 32	♣ AQ1098	♣ K76	♣ J54

West	North	East	South
<i>Coutts</i>	<i>Braithwaite</i>	<i>Mill</i>	<i>De Livera</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Do you agree with North's double? Would you prefer 2♣? North has only 11 HCP, but the shape is ideal for a takeout double (short in opener's suit, support or tolerance for the unbid suits). That makes the takeout double very attractive. With a doubleton spade, North would want to be a bit stronger for the takeout double.

With that 5-5 pattern, West might have bid 2♦ over 1NT. Still, you can see West's point of view. The ♥K is probably a wasted value, North may well have diamond length and East could not bid over North's double.

West led the ♦6: three – four – nine. South played the ♣J: two – eight – six and the ♠5: three – queen – king. East switched to the ♠J. South grabbed the ♠A, cashed the clubs and exited with a diamond in the hope of endplaying West with ♥K-x. The result was seven tricks for +90.

Board 7: Dealer West : Both vulnerable

		North		
		♠ 5		
		♥ A754		
		♦ J103		
		♣ AQ1098		
West			East	
♠ KQ832			♠ J104	
♥ K			♥ 108632	
♦ AK762			♦ 54	
♣ 32			♣ K76	
		South		
		♠ A976		
		♥ QJ9		
		♦ Q98		
		♣ J54		

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ J104
♥ 108632
♦ 54
♣ K76

You have support for spades, but only 4 HCP. You can add 1 point for the doubleton diamond. That brings you to 5 points. A raise to 2♠ is normally 6-9 points, but is partner going to quibble over one point? If none of your bids are ever more than one point out from the expected range, you will be doing well. Also, after a takeout double, many pairs shade their single raise by a point or two.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Tislevoll</i>
1♠	Dble	2♠	Dble
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

North led the ♠5. South took the ♠A and returned the ♠6: three – ♥7 – ♠10. West played the ♦K, ♦A, and ruffed a diamond with the ♠J. After a heart to the king and ace, North switched to the ♣Q and dummy's ♣K won. West could ruff a heart and draw trumps, making ten tricks, +170 and 6 Imps to Australia II.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♦ ⁽²⁾	?	

(1) 10-14 points, 5+ diamonds, no 4+ major, not 5-5 in the minors
(2) Natural, not forcing, not invitational

What would you do as East with:

♠ J97652
♥ K103
♦ 8
♣ K108

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

I can write better than anybody who can write faster and I can write faster than anybody who can write better. (A. J. Liebling, 1904-1963)

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.
