

# 241. Freak occurrence

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
5♠	Pass	6♣	Dble
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What would you lead as North from:

♠ 76  
♥ J10987543  
♦ 92  
♣ 3

Make up your mind before moving on to this, yesterday's problem:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
4♠	Pass	6♣	6♦
6♠	Pass	7♣	?

(1) Splinter, 4 hearts, 0-1 club, strong hand

What would you do as South with:

♠ --  
♥ AQ62  
♦ AQJ108765  
♣ J

If you choose to pass or double, what do you lead?

Both problems arose on the same deal, this huge freak from the 1997 Transnational Open Teams:

	North	
	♠ 76	
	♥ J10987543	
	♦ 92	
	♣ 3	
West		East
♠ AKQJ1098543		♠ 2
♥ K		♥ --
♦ K3		♦ 4
♣ --		♣ AKQ109876542
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥ AQ62	
	♦ AQJ108765	
	♣ J	

The tamest hand is North's 2-8-2-1. South has a 0-4-8-1, West a 10-1-2-0 and East a 1-0-1-11! After the auction above, a trump lead will take 6♣ two down. After a heart lead, declarer ruffs and can play a diamond or a club winner to make 12 tricks. After a club lead, declarer pitches the ♥K on a high club and plays a diamond or pitches a diamond on a top club, ruffs a club high and ruffs the ♥K. North actually led the ♦9. South won and a trump return will beat 6♣, but South had no trump to lead, East-West +1210.

After the auction in yesterday's problem as above, the ♦A lead will beat 7♣, but it makes on the ♥A lead. At the other table, British player Su Burn (S) took out insurance over 7♣ and bid 7♦, doubled by West, all pass. With no club, West began with ♠A. South ruffed and played ♦A, ♥A, ♦5. West won ♦K, but as West had no club to lead, South had the rest, one off, N-S -100 but +15 Imps. How could West know that East wanted a heart ruff?

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>

3♦<sup>(2)</sup> ?

(1) Artificial, very strong, almost always game-forcing

(2) Weak jump-overcall

What would you do as North with:

♠ 854

♥ 72

♦ --

♣ AQJ108432

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

*Change your thoughts and you change your world. (Norman Vincent Peale)*