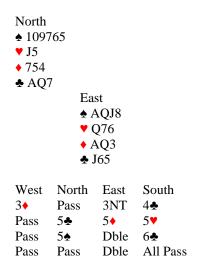
261. High drama

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: East-West vulnerable



West leads the ♠K. Which card do you play as East?

Suppose it starts: ♠K – five – eight – three and the ♠2: six – queen – four. What would you play next as East?

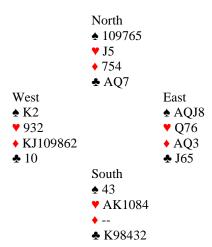
Yesterday's problem: With only East-West vulnerable, West opens 3♦, Pass from North and 3NT from East. What would you do as South with:

43✓ AK1084← --★ K98432

The attractive bid, if available, is a non-leaping $4\clubsuit$ to show 5+ clubs and a 5+ major. If that is not available, then maybe you want to try your luck with $4\blacktriangledown$?

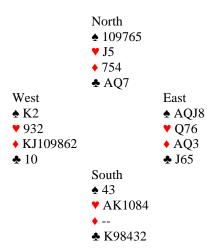
The deal arose in the semi-finals of the 2018 World Teams (Open Board 15, Women and Seniors Board 71).

Dealer West: East-West vulnerable



With SPECTOR North-South, the meaning of $5 \triangleq$ in the auction at the top of the page is unknown. East switched to A. South ruffed, played Q, A and led the J, winning, one down, East-West +100.

Open Board 15: Dealer West: East-West vulnerable



As West opened 3♦ vulnerable against not, West is expected to have seven diamonds to K-J-10 rather than only six diamonds. In that case, the ◆A switch was futile. Since West had shown the ♠K already and would have strong diamonds, the ♠K figures to be with South. In that case, a spade by East at trick 3 stands out and would promote a trump trick for the defence and +300, whether South discards or ruffs low or high. As the ♠K lead could be singleton, East should overtake with the ♠A and play two more rounds of spades, maybe ♠J and ♠8.

At the other table, with **ZIMMERMANN** North-South:

```
West
      North
             East
                    South
3♦
      Pass
              3NT
                    4.
      5♣
Pass
              5
                    6.
Dble
      Pass
              Pass
                    Pass
```

West led the ◆J. South ruffed and played ♣A, ♣Q and the ♥J, queen, ace, followed by ♥K, ♥10. South lost two spades later, one down, –100, no swing.

In the other semi-final ALLFREY North-South:

```
West North
                  East
                          South
                          4♣<sup>(1)</sup>
 3♦
                   3NT
         Pass
         4<sup>(2)</sup>
 Pass
                   Dble
                          4♥
         5♣
 Pass
                   5
                           All Pass
(1) Clubs and a major, at least 5-5
(2) Which major?
```

North led the ♥J. The defence took three hearts and a club, two light, North-South +200.

LAVAZZA North-South:

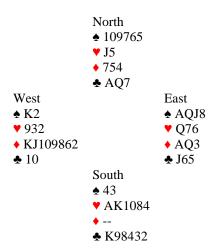
```
West North East South

3♦ Pass 3NT 4♣

4NT Pass Pass Pass
```

South led ♥A, ♥K and switched to the ♣2. The defence collected six clubs and so 4NT was five down, North-South +500 and +7 Imps. Had North or South doubled 4NT, East or West would have run to 5♠. North-South could collect 500 there. Double dummy, North-South can hold 4NT to 2 tricks, 8 down, North-South +800.

Women / Seniors Board 71: Dealer West: East-West vulnerable



Women's semi-finals: APEROL North-South: 3♦: Pass: 3NT: 4♥, Pass: Pass: 5♦, all pass. North led the ♥J. The defence took 3 hearts and a club, North-South +200. Note how the inability to show South's 2-suiter cost. SMITH North-South: 3♦: Pass: 3NT: 4♣, Pass: 5♣, all pass. Lead ♦J. South ruffed, played ♣A, ♣Q, ♥J, winning, and made 11 tricks, +400 and +5 Imps.

BARONI North-South: 3♦: Pass: 3NT: 4♣, Pass: Pass: 5♦, all pass. Lead: ♣A, switch to ♥J at trick 2, two down, North-South +200.

BAKER North-South: 3♦: Pass: 3NT: 4♣ (clubs and a major), 4♦ (asking): Double: 4♥, all pass. West led the ♣10, ♣Q. Declarer played the ♥J, winning, and made 11 tricks, +450 and +6 Imps.

Seniors' Semi-finals, WOLFSON North-South: 3♦: Pass: 3NT: 4♣, Pass: Pass: 4♦: 4♥, Pass: 5♣, all pass. Lead: ♠K, followed by the ♠2 to the ♠J. East played the ♠A and that created a trump trick for the defence, no matter what South did. In practice, South played the ♠K and East's ♠J became a winner later, East-West +50. CHINA-EVERTRUST North-South: 3♦: Pass: Pass: 3♥: all pass. Lead: ♣10, ace. South played the ♥J, queen, ace, followed by the ♥K and ♥10, 11 tricks, +200 and +6 Imps.

In the other semi-final, MILNER North-South: 2♦ (weak two): Pass: 2NT (strong inquiry): 4♣ (clubs and hearts), 4♦: 5♣: 5♦, all pass. North led the ♣A, followed by the ♥J. West was two down, North-South +200. SILVERMAN North-South: 2♦: Pass: 2NT: 3♥, 3♠: Pass: 4♠: 5♣, Pass: Pass: 5♦: Pass, Pass: 5♥: Double, all pass. Three rounds of spades will beat 5♥. West did lead the ♠K: five – eight – three, but switched to the ♣10 at trick 2. Declarer took the ♣A and played the ♥J, queen, ace and made 11 tricks, +650 and +10 Imps.

With the $2 \bullet$ or $3 \bullet$ opener leading the ΔK , it surprised me that no East overtook that to play ΔJ and a third spade. What if the ΔK lead had been a singleton?

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West: East-West vulnerable

North	West	North	East	South
♦ K107	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
♥ J3	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
◆ AQ864	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 953				
	West leads the ♥8 (fourth-highest). Plan the play.			
South				
♠ AQ2				
♥ Q72				
♦ K3				
♣ AQ1074				

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

To the mathematician who came up with the idea of zero: Thanks for nothing!

A great gift: *The Power of Pass* (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.