301. Rescue operations

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

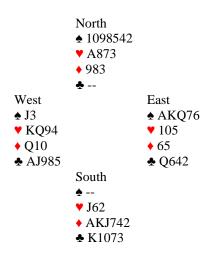
West North East South 2NT⁽¹⁾ 1♦ 1♠ Pass Dble⁽²⁾ Pass 3♠ Rdbl⁽³⁾ Pass 9 (1) Natural, strong (2) Penalties (3) SOS redouble, for rescue

What would you do as North with:

▲ 1098542
♥ A873
♦ 983
♣ --

Today's deal comes from the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams):

Board 73: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable



This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West North East South $1 \blacklozenge 1 \blacklozenge Pass 2NT^{(1)}$ Pass $3 \blacklozenge Dble^{(2)}$? (1) Natural, strong (2) Penalties

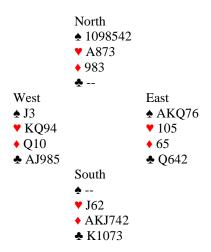
What would you do with the South hand?

North's 1 overcall was no thing of beauty – the other three Norths in the Bermuda Bowl passed – but it seems that for some players, anything goes at favourable vulnerability. You would also not describe South's 2NT advance as mainstream but ultimately no damage was done.

In the auction immediately above, South might have bid 4, but that might not have been the best spot. Knowing partner's proclivities at this vulnerability, South redoubled for rescue. If partner actually had excellent spades, North could pass.

In the auction at the top of the page, after South's SOS redouble, North might have run to 4Ψ . That would not have been the best spot for the partnership and would very likely have attracted a penalty double by West. Instead, North arranged to ask South to choose the best spot. How could North do that?

Board 73: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable



USA2 North-South:

West	North	East	South		
Warne	Kranyak	Bergdahl	Demuy		
1♦	1♠	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾		
Pass	3♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	Rdbl ⁽³⁾		
Pass	4 ♣ !	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass		
Pass	Rdbl ⁽³⁾	Pass	4♦		
Pass	Pass	Pass			
(1) Natural, strong					
(2) Penalties					
(3) SOS redouble, for rescue					

West led the $\diamond 10$, won by the jack. After club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff, South played the $\forall 3$: five – six – nine. West returned the $\diamond Q$. South emerged with ten tricks, East-West +130.

At the other table, with Sweden North-South:

West	North	East	South		
Hurd	Wrang	W'dridge	Sylvan		
$1NT^{(1)}$	Pass	2 V ⁽²⁾	Pass		
2♠	Pass	3NT	Dble		
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass		
(1) 14-14 points					
(2) Transfer to spades					

Sylvan's double of 3NT was probably in the hope driving East-West into $4 \$, where a bad break awaited. By showing values he hoped to encourage North to double $4 \$, but none of that eventuated. North led the 43 against 3NT. South won with the 4 and returned the 2! Perhaps he took the 3 as showing a diamond honour (and that would be the 4 since West had followed with the 10). More likely he feared that if he cashed the 4 and North had started with Q-x-3, North might not unblock the 4 under the 4.

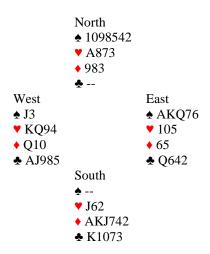
West won with the $\diamond Q$ and played ΔJ , ΔA , ΔK , ΔQ , followed by ΔQ , king, ace, and the ΔJ . That gave West seven tricks. The defence had the rest for two off, North-South +600 and 12 Imps to USA2.

England North-South:

West	North	East	South	
Kalita	Robson	Nowo'zki	Forrester	
1♣	Pass	1♠	3♦	
Pass	4	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) For takeout				

South led A. K and switched to the 2, king, ace. North returned the 3: ten – jack – queen. After 4 and the 3, ten, ace, East played the 2: three – nine – 2. North continued with the 8, ruffed with the 7. East made 5 spades and 2 hearts, three down, North-South +150.

Board 73: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable



Poland North-South:

West	North	East	South	
Gold	Gawrys	Bakhshi	Klukowicz	
1NT	Pass	2 ♥ ^(Ss)	3♦	
Pass	Pass	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	
3♥	4	All Pass		
(1) For takeout				

West led the \bullet 10. South won with the \bullet J, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and played the \bullet 3: five – six – nine. West returned the \bullet 4: seven – ten – jack. South drew trumps and had ten tricks, +130, but 1 Imp to England.

Although West's $\forall 4$ at trick 6 gave South a cheap trick with the $\forall J$, South was always going to make 10 tricks. Suppose West had exited with the $\diamond Q$ instead. South could win and play the $\forall J$, queen, seven, and finesse the $\forall 8$ last or cross to the $\forall A$, ruff a spade and exit with a heart to endplay West into giving South a club trick.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

WestNorthEastSouthPass1♠4♥?

What would you do as North with:

▲ 1096♥ Q5

♦ K872

♣ A632

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

Is it possible for your brain to have too many tabs opened?