334. A matter of mayhem

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠
3.	9		

What would you do as North with:

AQ103QJ53AK1064→ --

If you tackled yesterday's Daily Problem, you will recognize this deal. Yesterday's column featured the SWEDEN vs USA2 semi-final in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl. Today's deal, rotated 180 degrees, examines the outcome in ENGLAND vs POLAND.

Board 89: Dealer South: East-West vulnerable

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North
          ▲ AQ103
          ♥ QJ53
          ♦ AK1064
West
                       East
★ 85
                       ★ 764
¥ 862

▼ AK109

♦ QJ952
                       \rightarrow ---
♣ 762
                       ♣ AKJ854
          South
          ♦ KJ92
          74
          ♦ 873
          ♣ Q1093
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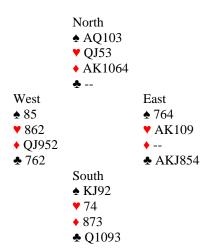
ENGLAND North-South:

West	North	East	South			
No'sadzki	Gold	Kalita	Bakhshi			
			Pass			
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠			
Pass	4♠	$4NT^{(1)}$	Pass			
5♣	Dble	All Pass				
(1) Takeout for hearts and clubs						

North led the \bigstar K, ruffed with the \bigstar 4. After the \bigstar 4, taken by the \bigstar K, South continued with the \bigstar 2. North won and played the \bigstar A, ruffed by West. Next came the \bigstar J: ace $-\bigstar$ 5 $- \bigstar$ 7, followed by the \blacktriangledown A, \blacktriangledown K and \blacktriangledown 10. West lost 2 spades, 1 heart and 2 clubs, three down, North-South +800.

Yesterday's question: What should East do over North's 4♠? The 4NT choice was a calamity for East-West, but it could have been avoided. East has a 5-loser hand. Why does East think that a 5-level contract is viable? Was East trying to push North-South into a sacrifice? East might have overcalled 2♠ initially, but having doubled first, East could now double 4♠. Whether West takes the double as penalties or takeout, West will pass it.

Board 89: Dealer South: East-West vulnerable



POLAND North-South:

West Forrester	North Klukowski	East <i>Robson</i>	South Gawyrs
			Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	$Rdbl^{(1)}$	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠
3♣	3♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass
(1) Strong	hand		

It is very strange for North to be prepared to play in 2♦ one minute and then bid game shortly after. It certainly looks as though Michal Klukowski was playing psychological games as though he was hoping 4♠ would be doubled. The jump to 4♠ at the end sort of gives that game away. Anyway, if he wanted to be doubled, his wish was granted. Beware of what you wish for.

West led the \checkmark 2: three – nine – seven. East returned the \spadesuit 4, won by the \spadesuit 10. Declarer played the \diamondsuit A. East ruffed and played his remaining spade, taken by the \spadesuit J. The \checkmark 4 went to the jack and ace and East switched to the \clubsuit A. Declarer ruffed with the \spadesuit A and played the \checkmark 5: ten – \spadesuit 9 – \checkmark 6. He continued with the \spadesuit 8, queen, ducked in dummy. When West exited with the \clubsuit 6, declarer discarded dummy's \checkmark Q. East won with the \clubsuit K and declarer had the rest, two down, East-West +300 and 15 Imps to ENGLAND.

Before that deal, POLAND was leading by 193-175. After Board 89, with 7 boards to play, it was POLAND 193, ENGLAND 190.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North: Both vulnerable

West North East South What would you do as South with: 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 1NT Pass $2 \leftarrow (1)$ ♠ AKJ10 Pass 2♥(2) Pass 3♣ **v** 10974 3NT Pass ? (1) Artificial, forcing to game ♣ QJ1094 (2) 3-card heart support

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

The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.