

336. Blood in the water

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♣
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ AQJ2
♥ K4
♦ 9543
♣ J53

With six boards to go in the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, Sweden led USA2 by 236-222 and England led Poland by 205-193. The differences narrowed after this deal:

Board 91: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K	
	♥ QJ105	
	♦ KQ87	
	♣ K842	
West		East
♠ AQJ2		♠ 84
♥ K4		♥ A872
♦ 9543		♦ AJ62
♣ J53		♣ A96
	South	
	♠ 1097653	
	♥ 963	
	♦ 10	
	♣ Q107	

ENGLAND East-West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>No'sadzki</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
		1NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠ ⁽³⁾	Pass	2NT	All Pass

(1) 12-14 points

(2) Please bid 2♦.

(3) Four spades

South led ♥6: four – ten – ace. East finessed the ♠Q, losing to the ♠K. Back came the ♥5 to the ♥K. After ♦3: seven – jack – ten, East cashed ♠A, ♠J and played ♣3: king – ace – seven. The ♦A would have given East seven tricks, but East returned a club. South took the ♣Q, cashed the spades and a heart gave North the rest. That was two light, –100.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Dble	Pass	?

What would you do with the South hand?

Board 91: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

North	
♠ K	
♥ QJ105	
♦ KQ87	
♣ K842	
West	East
♠ AQJ2	♠ 84
♥ K4	♥ A872
♦ 9543	♦ AJ62
♣ J53	♣ A96
South	
♠ 1097653	
♥ 963	
♦ 10	
♣ Q107	

POLAND East-West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With no attractive action, South elected to pass for penalties. Maybe West will run. Maybe we can beat 1♠. Worst case scenario: they make 1♠ doubled.

Hoping for stronger trumps with South, North led the ♠K. West won and played the ♦4, queen, ace. Then came ♥K, ♥A, heart ruff with the ♠2. West made 4 spades, 2 hearts, the ♦A and ♣A for 8 tricks, East-West +260 and 8 Imps to POLAND, now trailing 201-205. Five boards to go.

Would you have found a different action as South in reply to North's takeout double? After all, passing cost North-South 260. In the other match, with East opening 1♦ rather than 1♣, South did take the double out. The result was not pretty.

USA2 East-West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

If you are not going to pass 1♠ doubled, you have two 3-card suits available. South chose clubs because they were stronger and so less likely to be doubled. Not so, when West produced what looks like a co-operative double. West's trumps are not good enough for a penalty, despite West's high-card strength facing an opening bid. It might have been a speculative double, based on power, as 2♣ doubled would not give North-South game.

If West's double was co-operative, East was happy to co-operate and South ran to 2♥. West was not prepared to double this into game, but East had no compunctions. East doubled, all pass. West began with the ♥K and ♥4 to the ♥A. East played a third round, eliminating any ruffs in the South hand. South drew the last trump and finished four off for -800.

SWEDEN East-West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West took the ♥J underlead with the ♥A and played a low diamond won by the ♦10. The ♥K took the heart return and after ♦4, seven, jack, and ♠4 to the ♠Q and ♠K, West had a club and 2 tricks in each of the other suits, +90, but 12 Imps to USA2, now trailing 234-236.

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Takeout of spades.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2♥ ⁽¹⁾	2♠

Pass ?

(1) Weak two, 6 hearts, 6-9 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ J105

♥ A65

♦ QJ64

♣ J95

Made up your mind? Then consider this: Would it make a difference to your answer if the auction had been:

West	North	East	South
		2♥ ⁽¹⁾	2♠

3♣ ?

(1) Weak two, 6 hearts, 6-9 points

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

One-celled organisms would outscore him on an IQ test. (British Military Staff Appraisal)