## 62. How did two grand go missing?

## By Ron Klinger

A businessman tells his friend that his company is looking for a new accountant. His friend asks, "Didn't your company hire a new accountant a few weeks ago?" The businessman replies, "That's the accountant we're looking for."

South dealer: Both vulnerable

| West       | North                     | East | South |
|------------|---------------------------|------|-------|
|            |                           |      | 1♠    |
| Pass       | <b>2</b> ♦ <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass | 3NT   |
| Pass       | 4♠                        | Pass | ?     |
| (1) NT . 1 | c ·                       |      |       |

(1) Natural, game-forcing

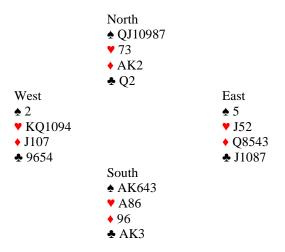
What would you do as South with:

- **♦** AK643
- **♥** A86
- **♦**96
- ♣ AK3

What would you expect from North's sequence? Typical would be three trumps, 4-5 diamonds and 13+ points. It could be 4+ trumps, but 1♠: 2NT (Jacoby) would have catered for that. A typical hand for North might be:

QJ7 J52 AKQ32 75 or QJ7 Q742 AK53 Q5

In either case, it would be reasonable to reach 6♠, a good contract opposite the first hand and marginal opposite the second. Given North has 13+ points and South has 18-19, one could reasonably play 4♠ as forcing.



This was yesterday's question:

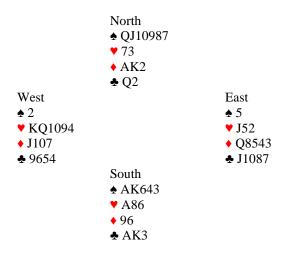
South dealer: Both vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |  |
|------|-------|------|-------|--|
|      |       |      | 1♠    |  |
| Pass | ?     |      |       |  |

What would you do as North with:

- **♦** QJ10987 **♥** 73
- ♦ AK2
- **♣** Q2

South dealer: Both vulnerable



With 2NT available to show a game-forcing hand with 4+ spades, you might wonder about North's choice of a  $2 \spadesuit$  response. With the opponents short in spades, North thought there could be a sacrifice against  $4 \spadesuit$  and bid  $2 \spadesuit$  to suggest a diamond lead just in case. The plan was to rebid  $4 \spadesuit$  over  $2 \spadesuit$  or reach  $4 \spadesuit$  via fourth suit if opener rebid  $2 \heartsuit$ . The North-South auction was found wanting when  $1 \spadesuit : 2 \spadesuit$ ,  $3NT : 4 \spadesuit$  was passed out.

You might consider how you and partner would bid the North-South hands and allocate the blame between North and South for the actual auction when 7♠ is unbeatable. Maybe you do not reach 7♠, but 6♠ can definitely be achieved.

Results:  $7 - 210 \times 2$ , +12.9 Imps;  $6 - 1460 \times 11$ , +0.9; 6NT +1440, +0.1; 4 - 110 - 11.7; 5 - 110 - 11.7; 4NT +690 - 11.9. The two auctions to  $7 - 100 \times 100 \times$ 

South dealer: Both vulnerable

West North East South
1♥
Pass ?

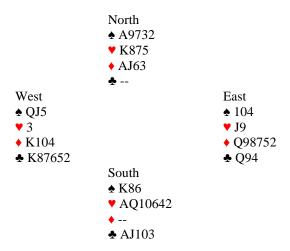
What would you do as North with:

★ A8763▼ K754◆ AJ83◆ --

There are various options. You could bid 2NT (Jacoby), game-force with 4+ hearts, but it will be very hard to reveal the club void later. You could bid 1♠, planning to show the heart support later, depending on how the auction goes. Another choice is a 4♠ splinter, showing club shortage, 4+ hearts and the high-card values for game. A popular range for such a splinter is 11-14 HCP.

Some prefer to use a splinter such as 44 here as guaranteeing a singleton club. Others like it to show a void in clubs. Others use it to show either a singleton or a void in clubs. Showing specifically a club void is preferable to showing specifically a singleton, even though the void holding is less frequent. The singleton holding can be included in the 2NT Jacoby Convention.

South dealer: Both vulnerable



This was one of the auctions:

| West | North                     | East     | South |
|------|---------------------------|----------|-------|
|      |                           |          | 1♥    |
| Pass | 1♠                        | Pass     | 2♣    |
| Pass | <b>2</b> ♦ <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass     | 3♠    |
| Pass | 6♥                        | All Pass |       |
|      |                           |          |       |

(1) Fourth-suit forcing to game

South's sequence showed a better-than-minimum opening with a 3-5-1-4 or a 3-6-0-4 pattern. After 3♠, North had no convenient way to make a forcing bid which would agree hearts as trumps. He therefore blasted 6. With the actual layout, 13 tricks are easy: draw trumps, discard a spade on the ♦A, cash ♠K, ♠A and ruff a spade.

Only one pair reached 7♥. The majority were in 6♥.

Using Scroll, it could go this way:

| West         | North                     | East   | South     |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
|              |                           |        | 1♥        |
| Pass         | <b>4♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>  | Pass   | $4^{(2)}$ |
| Pass         | <b>4</b> ♠ <sup>(3)</sup> | Pass   | 7♥        |
| Pass         | Pass                      | Pass   |           |
| (1) 0-1 club | o, 11+ points, 4+         | hearts |           |

- (2) Scroll inquiry
- (3) Void and 0 or 3 key cards

South then knows North has the ♠A, ♥K-x-x-x or longer and the ♠A. South knows that the ♠A will provide a parking spot for the spade loser and can hope to ruff three clubs losers in dummy if North has nothing else useful.

It might be a tougher task to reach 7♥ if South foregoes the use of *Scroll*. It might go this way:

| West | North                    | East     | South                     |
|------|--------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
|      |                          |          | 1♥                        |
| Pass | <b>4♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass     | <b>5</b> ♦ <sup>(2)</sup> |
| Pass | 5NT <sup>(3)</sup>       | Pass     | <b>6</b> ♦ <sup>(4)</sup> |
| Pass | <b>6♥</b> ?/ <b>7♥</b> ? | All Pass |                           |
|      |                          |          |                           |

- (1) Splinter
- (2) Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood
- (3) Two key cards outside diamonds, no ♥Q
- (4) Last train, asking partner to bid 7 with anything extra and useful

## **Problems for Tomorrow:**

1. East dealer : Nil vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       | Pass | 3♠    |
| Pass | ?     |      |       |

What would you do as North with:

- **♠** 10
- ♥ A874
- ♦ KQJ8
- ♣ A1095
- 2. North dealer: Nil vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | 1♣    | Pass | 1♥    |
| ?    |       |      |       |

What would you do as West with:

- **★** 10864
- **♥** K8
- ♦ KJ8765
- **♣** 8

After you have made up your mind, the auction continues:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | 1♣    | Pass | 1♥    |
| 2♦   | 3♣    | Pass | 3NT   |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

I am not selling the 2♦ overcall, just reporting. What would you lead from that West hand against 3NT?

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

2020: My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.