

# 93. Virtue rewarded and unrewarded

By Ron Klinger

Try this problem:

East dealer : Both vulnerable

North  
♠ A10853  
♥ K9  
♦ 543  
♣ 965

South  
♠ KJ7  
♥ QJ6  
♦ J96  
♣ AKQ3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 15-17 points

(2) Transfer to spades

(3) Inviting game

West leads the ♣2: five – eight – ace. Plan the play?

If you can collect five spade tricks, you have nine tricks if clubs are 3-3. That is possible but not very likely. As soon as they gain the lead, the defenders can take at least four diamonds and the ♥A, even assuming that you do collect five spade tricks.

How should you play the spades? With no other concerns, you should start with ♠K, ♠J. It is a guess which opponent has the ♠Q, but ♠K, then ♠J caters for Q-9-x-x on your left. If you do play ♠7 to ♠A and finesse the ♠J, even if that works you have no sure re-entry to dummy. No one has promised you that the ♥A is onside.

In practice, declarer played the ♥6 at trick 2: three – king – four. What now?

This was the first of yesterday's problems:

East dealer : Both vulnerable

North  
♠ A10853  
♥ K9  
♦ 543  
♣ 965

West  
♠ Q642  
♥ A1053  
♦ 2  
♣ J1072

Trick 1: ♣2 – five – eight – ace

Trick 2: ♥6 – three – king – four

Trick 3: ♠3 – nine – jack . . . How would you defend?

East dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A10853	
	♥ K9	
	♦ 543	
	♣ 965	
West		East
♠ Q642		♠ 9
♥ A1053		♥ 8742
♦ 2		♦ AKQ1087
♣ J1072		♣ 84
	South	
	♠ KJ7	
	♥ QJ6	
	♦ J96	
	♣ AKQ3	

At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♣J. South won and played the ♥6: three – king – two and the ♥9 to the queen and ace. West returned the ♣2, won by the ♣9. Then came ♠K, ♥J discarding ♦3, ♠7 to ♠A, club to ♣Q, ♠K discarding ♦4 and South had ten tricks, +170.

At the other table, South was in 3NT after 1NT : 2♥, 2♠ : 2NT, 3NT, all pass. West led the ♣2: six – eight – ace. Declarer played ♥6: three – king – four. Declarer could now make nine tricks via a low spade to the ♠K, followed by ♠J, letting it run if West plays low.

Fearful that if the finesse lost to East, a diamond switch would be forthcoming, South continued with the ♠3: nine – jack – queen. South's idea was that if the spade finesse lost to West, it would be harder for West to find the diamond switch. West let South down. Winning with the ♠Q, West switched to the ♦2. East took six diamond tricks and the ♥A meant four down, East-West +400.

How did West come to the ♦2 switch? As with most critical decisions, counting shows the way. East's ♠8 at trick 1 marked South with ♣A-K-Q. South's play of the ♥K and spade to the ♠J, meant that South must have started with ♠K-J-x (or, strangely, at worst ♠K-J). South would hardly play a low heart to the ♥K without the ♥Q. That gave South 9 HCP in clubs, 4 HCP in spades and 2 HCP in hearts. That placed East with at least A-K in diamonds.

What contract would you like to be in on the East-West cards? How would you (a) bid it? (b) play it?

West	East
♠ AJ3	♠ KQ84
♥ Q7	♥ A1064
♦ AK95	♦ 8
♣ KJ95	♣ A842

At one table, it went 1♦ : 1♥, 2NT : 3♠ (4 spades, 4 hearts exactly), 3NT : 4NT (inviting slam), all pass. East felt that 4♣ over 3NT was not warranted. West could be 3=3=4=3 or 5-3-3-2 with 5 diamonds. North led the ♦Q. West won, crossed to the ♣A, finessed the ♣J, followed by the ♥7 to the ♥10 and ♥J. Declarer made ten tricks, +430.

At the other table, the auction was 2♦ (18-20 balanced), 2♠ (forcing 2NT), 2NT : 3♣ (asking), 3♦ (no 5-card major), 4♣ (4=4=1=4, slam interest) : 5♣, 6♣, all pass. West could have made a stronger club raise via 4♦ over 4♣. Would you be happy to be in 6♣? South leads the ♦6. Plan the play.

It looks easy enough – all you need is clubs 3-2 or the ♣Q singleton – but the actual layout thwarted declarer.

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 965	
	♥ 83	
	♦ QJ107432	
	♣ 6	
West		East
♠ AJ3		♠ KQ84
♥ Q7		♥ A1064
♦ AK95		♦ 8
♣ KJ95		♣ A842
	South	
	♠ 1072	
	♥ KJ952	
	♦ 6	
	♣ Q1073	

Against 6♣, South led the ♦6, ace. East played ♣K, ♣A, ♠4 to the ♠A, ♦5, ruffed with the ♣8 and over-ruffed with the ♣10. South cashed the ♣Q and East finished two down, -100 and -11 Imps.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

(1) 0 or 3 key cards for diamonds

What would you lead as West from:

♠ KJ9642  
♥ J84  
♦ 74  
♣ 54

2. East dealer : North-South vulnerable

North  
♠ 42  
♥ A85  
♦ AK92  
♣ Q532

South  
♠ 10  
♥ KQJ10763  
♦ 4  
♣ K864

West	North	East	South
		Pass	4♥
4♠	5♥	Dble	All Pass

West leads the ♠A and switches to the ♣J: two – seven – king. Plan the play.

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

*Some people are not shaking hands because of the Coronavirus. I am not shaking hands because everyone is out of toilet paper.*