

261. High drama

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ 109765

♥ J5

♦ 754

♣ AQ7

East

♠ AQJ8

♥ Q76

♦ AQ3

♣ J65

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♣
Pass	5♣	5♦	5♥
Pass	5♠	Dble	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West leads the ♠K. Which card do you play as East?

Suppose it starts: ♠K – five – eight – three and the ♠2: six – queen – four. What would you play next as East?

Yesterday's problem: With only East-West vulnerable, West opens 3♦, Pass from North and 3NT from East. What would you do as South with:

♠ 43

♥ AK1084

♦ --

♣ K98432

The attractive bid, if available, is a non-leaping 4♣ to show 5+ clubs and a 5+ major. If that is not available, then maybe you want to try your luck with 4♥?

The deal arose in the semi-finals of the 2018 World Teams (Open Board 15, Women and Seniors Board 71).

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ 109765

♥ J5

♦ 754

♣ AQ7

West

♠ K2

♥ 932

♦ KJ109862

♣ 10

East

♠ AQJ8

♥ Q76

♦ AQ3

♣ J65

South

♠ 43

♥ AK1084

♦ --

♣ K98432

With [SPECTOR](#) North-South, the meaning of 5♠ in the auction at the top of the page is unknown. East switched to ♦A. South ruffed, played ♣Q, ♣A and led the ♥J, winning, one down, East-West +100.

Open Board 15: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North
	♠ 109765
	♥ J5
	♦ 754
	♣ AQ7
West	East
♠ K2	♠ AQJ8
♥ 932	♥ Q76
♦ KJ109862	♦ AQ3
♣ 10	♣ J65
	South
	♠ 43
	♥ AK1084
	♦ --
	♣ K98432

As West opened 3♦ vulnerable against not, West is expected to have seven diamonds to K-J-10 rather than only six diamonds. In that case, the ♦A switch was futile. Since West had shown the ♠K already and would have strong diamonds, the ♣K figures to be with South. In that case, a spade by East at trick 3 stands out and would promote a trump trick for the defence and +300, whether South discards or ruffs low or high. As the ♠K lead could be singleton, East should overtake with the ♠A and play two more rounds of spades, maybe ♠J and ♠8.

At the other table, with [ZIMMERMANN](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♣
Pass	5♣	5♦	6♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the ♦J. South ruffed and played ♣A, ♣Q and the ♥J, queen, ace, followed by ♥K, ♥10. South lost two spades later, one down, -100, no swing.

In the other semi-final [ALLFREY](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♦ ⁽²⁾	Dble	4♥
Pass	5♣	5♦	All Pass

(1) Clubs and a major, at least 5-5

(2) Which major?

North led the ♥J. The defence took three hearts and a club, two light, North-South +200.

[LAVAZZA](#) North-South:

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♣
4NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led ♥A, ♥K and switched to the ♣2. The defence collected six clubs and so 4NT was five down, North-South +500 and +7 Imps. Had North or South doubled 4NT, East or West would have run to 5♦. North-South could collect 500 there. Double dummy, North-South can hold 4NT to 2 tricks, 8 down, North-South +800.

Women / Seniors Board 71: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 109765	
	♥ J5	
	♦ 754	
	♣ AQ7	
West		East
♠ K2		♠ AQJ8
♥ 932		♥ Q76
♦ KJ109862		♦ AQ3
♣ 10		♣ J65
	South	
	♠ 43	
	♥ AK1084	
	♦ --	
	♣ K98432	

Women's semi-finals: **APEROL** North-South: 3♦ : Pass : 3NT : 4♥, Pass : Pass : 5♦, all pass. North led the ♥J. The defence took 3 hearts and a club, North-South +200. Note how the inability to show South's 2-suiter cost. **SMITH** North-South: 3♦ : Pass : 3NT : 4♣, Pass : 5♣, all pass. Lead ♦J. South ruffed, played ♣A, ♣Q, ♥J, winning, and made 11 tricks, +400 and +5 Imps.

BARONI North-South: 3♦ : Pass : 3NT : 4♣, Pass : Pass : 5♦, all pass. Lead: ♣A, switch to ♥J at trick 2, two down, North-South +200.

BAKER North-South: 3♦ : Pass : 3NT : 4♣ (clubs and a major), 4♦ (asking) : Double : 4♥, all pass. West led the ♣10, ♣Q. Declarer played the ♥J, winning, and made 11 tricks, +450 and +6 Imps.

Seniors' Semi-finals, **WOLFSON** North-South: 3♦ : Pass : 3NT : 4♣, Pass : Pass : 4♦ : 4♥, Pass : 5♣, all pass. Lead: ♠K, followed by the ♠2 to the ♠J. East played the ♠A and that created a trump trick for the defence, no matter what South did. In practice, South played the ♠K and East's ♠J became a winner later, East-West +50. **CHINA-EVERTRUST** North-South: 3♦ : Pass : Pass : 3♥ : all pass. Lead: ♣10, ace. South played the ♥J, queen, ace, followed by the ♥K and ♥10, 11 tricks, +200 and +6 Imps.

In the other semi-final, **MILNER** North-South: 2♦ (weak two) : Pass : 2NT (strong inquiry) : 4♣ (clubs and hearts), 4♦ : 5♣ : 5♦, all pass. North led the ♣A, followed by the ♥J. West was two down, North-South +200. **SILVERMAN** North-South: 2♦ : Pass : 2NT : 3♥, 3♠ : Pass : 4♠ : 5♣, Pass : Pass : 5♦ : Pass, Pass : 5♥ : Double, all pass. Three rounds of spades will beat 5♥. West did lead the ♠K: five – eight – three, but switched to the ♠10 at trick 2. Declarer took the ♣A and played the ♥J, queen, ace and made 11 tricks, +650 and +10 Imps.

With the 2♦ or 3♦ opener leading the ♠K, it surprised me that no East overtook that to play ♠J and a third spade. What if the ♠K lead had been a singleton?

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North	West	North	East	South
♠ K107	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
♥ J3	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
♦ AQ864	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 953				
South				
♠ AQ2				
♥ Q72				
♦ K3				
♣ AQ1074				

West leads the ♥8 (fourth-highest). Plan the play.

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

To the mathematician who came up with the idea of zero: Thanks for nothing!

A great gift: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.