

17. Dividend Return

By Ron Klinger

Pairs: West dealer : E-W vulnerable

North

♠ Q8632

♥ 84

♦ A92

♣ A72

East

♠ K

♥ A952

♦ 10843

♣ 9853

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Maximum pass, support for spades

West leads the ♥Q. What should East play?

Suppose you have decided to win trick 1 with the ♥A and South follows with the ♥3. What would you play at trick 2?

On this deal, cover the East-West cards. You are South in 4♠, no East-West bidding. West leads the ♥Q. If East plays low, your ♥K wins. What do you play next?

A good idea is to cash the ♠A. How will you continue if (a) the ♠K drops or (b) both opponents follow, but the ♠K has not dropped?

West dealer : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ Q8632

♥ 84

♦ A92

♣ A72

West

♠ J9

♥ QJ1076

♦ Q65

♣ Q64

East

♠ K

♥ A952

♦ 10843

♣ 9853

South

♠ A10754

♥ K3

♦ KJ7

♣ KJ10

After winning trick 1 with the ♥K, South plays the ♠A. The ♠K singleton in either hand is your best chance of no spade loser. Crossing to dummy with a minor-suit ace and leading the ♠Q avoids a loser only when West has the ♠J singleton and loses a trump trick here. When the ♠K drops, play to the ♠Q to draw the last trump. Then exit with a heart. Whoever wins this will give you a ruff-and-discard or lead a minor suit for you, which avoids a loser in that suit via second hand low. If all follow to the ♠A, but the ♠K does not drop, you can exit with a heart or a spade. Again, whoever wins the heart trick must solve one of the minor suits for you.

East should take ♥A at trick 1. With no long suit in dummy to give declarer discards, East should return a heart. If declarer then plays ♠A, spade to the ♠Q, ♦A, diamond to ♦J, West wins and should exit with the third diamond. If declarer now plays East for the ♣Q, the result is ten tricks only. After ♥A, heart to ♥K, ♠A, spade to ♠Q, South can guarantee 11 tricks via ♦A, ♦K and exiting with ♦J. Whatever the defenders do now, South can avoid a club loser.

Pairs: West dealer : Both vulnerable

North
 ♠ 84
 ♥ Q653
 ♦ J9
 ♣ AQ1074

East
 ♠ A952
 ♥ J
 ♦ 10843
 ♣ 9853

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Fit-showing jump

North's fit-showing jump here shows a maximum pass, support for opener's major and a strong 5+ club suit (at least K-Q-high). West leads the ♠Q. Which spade should East play?

Suppose you have decided to win trick 1 with the ♠A and South follows with the ♠3. What would you play at trick 2?

	North	
	♠ 84	
	♥ Q653	
	♦ J9	
	♣ AQ1074	
West		East
♠ QJ107		♠ A952
♥ 1097		♥ J
♦ AQ52		♦ 10843
♣ J2		♣ 9853
	South	
	♠ K63	
	♥ AK842	
	♦ K76	
	♣ K6	

If East plays low at trick 1 (big mistake), South wins, draws trumps and can make 12 tricks. The same happens if East takes the ♠A and returns a spade. South wins, draws trumps, runs the clubs, ditching three diamonds and ruffs a spade in dummy. Because of the strong club suit in dummy, East should take ♠A and switch to a diamond. This holds declarer to ten tricks, the best you can do.

Tomorrow's Problems:

1. Pairs: South dealer : E-W vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠
Pass	?		

(1) For takeout

What would you do as North with:

♠ K832
♥ A
♦ AJ
♣ AKQJ52

2. East dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ K107
♥ AKQ8752
♦ Q9
♣ 3

*My teammates and I went away
To Gatlinburg for a week's stay,
So we played in Kos
Against dozens of pros
Netting 20 points each. Hip hooray!
(ACBL Bulletin, March 2020)*