

18. How High the Moon

By Ron Klinger

Pairs: South dealer : E-W vulnerable

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

(1) For takeout

What would you do as North with:

♠ K832
♥ A
♦ AJ
♣ AKQJ52

Today's deals are from the 2018 Watermark Swiss Pairs at the North Shore BC Super Congress.

Round 1: Board 9

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
♠ A10	♠ K832	♠ 975	♠ QJ64
♥ KJ109543	♥ A	♥ Q2	♥ 876
♦ 5	♦ AJ	♦ 96432	♦ KQ1087
♣ 983	♣ AKQJ52	♣ 1074	♣ 6

At one table, after the auction above, North jumped to 6♠. West led the ♥J, ace. Declarer knocked out the ♠A and made 12 tricks, +980. No damage done by the jump to 6♠, but it was a silly bid. What if South has ♠A-Q-9-5-4. Now 7♠ is almost a certainty. After 4♠, North should ask with 4NT. When South denies any key card, you can ask for the ♠Q and bid 6♠ when South shows it.

Datum: N-S 650. Results: 6♠ x 14, +980 x 13, -50 x 1; 6♣ +920 x 3; 7♠ -50 x 1; 7♣ -50 x 1; 4♠/5♠ x 9; 3NT x 5; 4♣ +170 x 1.

Round 1: Board 10

North dealer : Both vulnerable

West	East
♠ A3	♠ K10
♥ 842	♥ AQJ3
♦ AKJ10752	♦ 43
♣ 9	♣ A10542

North opened 3♠, East doubled for takeout, South passed and West jumped to 5♦ all pass. As South had ♦Q-6 and North had ♥K-5, 7♦ was on. You would not want to be in 7♦, but 6♦ is respectable.

Datum: E-W 830. Results: 6NT +1470 x 1; 6♦ + 1390 x 11; 3NT x 8, +720 x 6, +690 x 1, +600 x 1; 5♦ x 14, +640 x 12, +620 x 2; 4♥ + 620 x 1; 3♦ / 4♦ +190 x 4.

East dealer : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ K107
♥ AKQ8752
♦ Q9
♣ 3

How many tricks is the heart suit worth? It will produce seven tricks about 90% of the time. The ♠K is another potential winner. You have five losers and so eight playing tricks. A 1-level response of 6+ points is usually two tricks or more. Therefore, your rebid should be 4♥. A simple 2♥ is a gross underbid. If you cannot bring yourself to bid 4♥, at least jump to 3♥.

Round 2: Board 16

East dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ42	
	♥ 64	
	♦ 653	
	♣ K1065	
West		East
♠ 83		♠ J965
♥ J103		♥ 9
♦ AK8		♦ J10742
♣ QJ982		♣ A74
	South	
	♠ K107	
	♥ AKQ8752	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ 3	

As North has 9 HCP, North will bid 4♥ after 1♥ : 1♠, 3♥. Note that you do not need the ♣K to make 4♥. If North had four low clubs instead, North would pass 3♥. Ask not what your partner can do for you. Do it yourself.

Datum: N-S +420. Results: 4♥ x 35, +480 x 1, +450 x 8, +420 x 26; 2♥ +200 x 2; 3♥ +170 x 1.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer : Nil vulnerable

North
 ♠ J65
 ♥ 1086
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ KQ842

East
 ♠ K8
 ♥ A973
 ♦ AJ65
 ♣ J93

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♥J: six from dummy. Which heart do you play as East?

2. East dealer : Nil vulnerable

North
 ♠ K965
 ♥ Q432
 ♦ J982
 ♣ 2

East
 ♠ J107
 ♥ KJ8
 ♦ K1043
 ♣ J84

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽³⁾
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 15-17 points (2) Simple Stayman

(3) No 4-card major

West leads the ♦5, two from dummy. Which diamond would you play as East?

Why not discuss the problems by phone with your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

Not all crimes are punished. Not all bad bids in bridge are punished either.