

30. Diagnosis of Heart Condition

By Ron Klinger

West dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AQ72
♥ J9753
♦ AQ5
♣ 7

This deal comes from the final of the 2019 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams).

West dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 9	
	♥ K108	
	♦ KJ6	
	♣ Q108543	
West		East
♠ 864		♠ KJ1053
♥ A2		♥ Q64
♦ 9873		♦ 1042
♣ KJ92		♣ A6
	South	
	♠ AQ72	
	♥ J9753	
	♦ AQ5	
	♣ 7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Helness</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Artificial, maximum pass, heart support

(2) Artificial, better than a 2♥ sign-off

West led the ♠4: nine – king – ace. South cashed the ♠Q, ruffed a spade with the ♥8, crossed to the ♦A, ruffed the fourth spade with the ♥10 and exited with the ♥K. South lost two hearts and a club, North-South +620.

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmerman</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥!?
2♠	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong heart raise

West led the ♠4 and the play went the same way for ten tricks, +620, no swing.

	North	
	♠ 9	
	♥ K108	
	♦ KJ6	
	♣ Q108543	
West		East
♠ 864		♠ KJ1053
♥ A2		♥ Q64
♦ 9873		♦ 1042
♣ KJ92		♣ A6
	South	
	♠ AQ72	
	♥ J9753	
	♦ AQ5	
	♣ 7	

This was the auction in a BBO practice match,

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lacking Jacek Pszczola's courage, South was influenced by the spade length and poor quality of the hearts and declined to overcall 2♥. After a spade lead, declarer also made ten tricks, but that was +170 and a loss to those who were +620. South's only solace was that if West had led the ♥A against 4♥ and continued with the ♥2, the limit for South would have been nine tricks and playing in 3♥ would have been a pick-up.

North dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 6-11 points

What would you lead as West from:

♠ 64
♥ AQJ4
♦ Q872
♣ J98

This arose in a practice game on BBO:

North dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ108	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 1096	
	♣ KQ652	
West		East
♠ 64		♠ J752
♥ AQJ4		♥ 108765
♦ Q872		♦ AK4
♣ J98		♣ 4
	South	
	♠ K93	
	♥ K32	
	♦ J53	
	♣ A1073	

At one table, with East-West silent, it went 1♣ : Pass : 2♥ (artificial, game-invitation with 4+ clubs). North bid 3♣, all pass. Declarer lost three diamonds and a heart, but had nine tricks, +110.

At the other table, it went 1♣ : Pass : 1NT (6-11), all pass. West led the ♥Q. That could have been right on another day, but not this one. South won with the ♥K and cashed five clubs. East ditched spades and so South made 10 tricks, +180 and +2 Imps.

See the outcome if West happens to hit on the ♦2 lead. East wins with the ♦K and seeing that there will be four diamond tricks at best for the defence. East switches to hearts. Which one? The ♥10 as East has dummy's ♥9 surrounded with a full sequence. Now the defence should come to nine tricks to take 3NT five down!

Postscript: Whether North-South make 3♣ or make 1NT with overtricks or even go five light in 1NT, it would be a good result for them. Unable to enter the bidding, East-West can make 4♥ against any defence. They lose only two spades and a club.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	?

(1) Transfer to hearts

What would you do as South with:

♠ K107642
♥ A9
♦ AK982
♣ --

2. South dealer : East-West vulnerable

North
♠ AK1053
♥ KQ10
♦ Q92
♣ 43

South
♠ --
♥ A87642
♦ 104
♣ AJ1076

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Fourth-suit, forcing to game

West leads the ♦K: two – eight – ten.

West continues with the ♦7: nine – jack – four.

East plays the ♦A . . . What do you play as South?

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

Comment to partner, when dummy comes down weaker than expected: “My name is Simpson, not Samson.”