

31. Show case

By Ron Klinger

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
♣ --

From the final of the 2019 Spingold (USA Open Knockout Teams) between **BLASS** and **ZIMMERMANN**.

Bd 18: East dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 8	
	♥ 102	
	♦ QJ105	
	♣ 1076432	
West		East
♠ AQJ3		♠ 95
♥ J543		♥ KQ876
♦ 43		♦ 76
♣ AK5		♣ QJ98
	South	
	♠ K107642	
	♥ A9	
	♦ AK982	
	♣ --	

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>Driiver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	2♥ ⁽²⁾
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Transfer to hearts

(2) Strong hand

North led the ♠8: nine – ten – queen. The ♥J went to the ace and South cashed ♦K, ♦A. Then came the ♣2 (suit-preference for clubs): three – ♥10 – ♣5. North switched to a club. South ruffed. That was two down, N-S +300.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Multon</i>
		Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♦!
3♥	5♦!	Dble	All Pass

(1) Transfer to hearts

North	
♠ 8	
♥ 102	
♦ QJ105	
♣ 1076432	
West	
♠ AQJ3	
♥ J543	
♦ 43	
♣ AK5	
East	
♠ 95	
♥ KQ876	
♦ 76	
♣ QJ98	
South	
♠ K107642	
♥ A9	
♦ AK982	
♣ --	

South's 3♦ was a better description of the nature of the South hand than South's 2♥ at the other table. South ruffed the ♣K lead and played ♠2, ♣J. West switched to the ♥3. South took the ♥A and played ♠10: queen – ♦Q – ♣9. After ♦5 to the ♦9 and the ♦K, South played ♠6, ace, ♦J. South lost a heart and a spade, +750, +10 Imps.

You rarely get rich by doubling opponents who have bid to a high level at unfavourable vulnerability. Assuming the opponents are sane, what they lack in high cards almost always has compensation in extreme shape. Note that North-South have only 17 HCP, but South can make 5♦ against any defence. East would have done better to bid 5♥. That would have reduced the loss.

In a practice match on the same deal on BBO, it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♥	3♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

East was two down, -100.

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?

This arose in the same match:

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North		
	♠ AK1053		
	♥ KQ10		
	♦ Q92		
	♣ 43		
West		East	
♠ 98762		♠ QJ4	
♥ J5		♥ 93	
♦ K7		♦ AJ8653	
♣ KQ95		♣ 82	
	South		
	♠ --		
	♥ A87642		
	♦ 104		
	♣ AJ1076		

(Directions changed for convenience)

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

(1) Game-force relay

(2) Any minimum opening

West led the ♣K, ace. South played ♥K, ♥Q, ♠A, ♠K, pitching two diamonds, and the ♣4 to the ♣J. He ruffed a club later for 12 tricks, +480

West	North	East	South
<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Fourth-suit, forcing to game

East's double of the fourth-suit 2♦ asked West to lead a diamond. After ♦K, the ♦7, nine, jack, and the ♦A, South ruffed with the ♥8. West over-ruffed with the ♥J. South had a club loser later, one down and 11 Imps away.

In a practice match, after the same auction and the same first two tricks, followed by the ♦A, South ruffed with the ♥A. South drew trumps in two rounds, pitched two club losers on the ♠A, ♠K, and made ten tricks, +420.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ 8653
♥ KJ7
♦ J
♣ AQ832

2. North dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1NT	Dble
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ 82
♥ 9865
♦ 1032
♣ 10983

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 much weaker than expected: “Whatever happened to the hand you held during the bidding?”