

# 45. The treatment for six losers

*By Ron Klinger*

After the success of Columbus-Alt in March, bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online), organized The Alt Invitational. There were eight teams, playing a round-robin, followed by semi-finals and a final. These were the teams:

<b>Blass</b>	Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski, Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)
<b>De Botton</b>	Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes, Artur Malinowski
<b>Hungary</b>	Miklos Dumbovich, Gal Hegedus, Csaba Szabo, Balasz Szegedi, Gabor Winkler
<b>Upmark</b>	Peter Bertheau, Per Ola Cullin, Simon Hult, Marion Michielsen, Fredrik Nyström, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark
<b>Meltzer</b>	Rose Meltzer, Nikolay Demirev, Bartosz Chmurski, Piotr Nawrocki, Piotr Tuczynski, Piotr Wiankowski
<b>Milner</b>	Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland
<b>Street</b>	Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski
<b>Team NL</b>	Maarten Schollaardt, Merijn Groenenboom, Danny Molenaar, Tim Verbeek, Joris van Lankveld, Berend van den Bos, Bart Nab, Bob Drijver, Guy Mendes de Leon, Thibo Sprinkhuizen
<b>Zhao</b>	Zhao Chen, Liu Jing, Bauke Muller, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs

**Round 1:** **BLASS** beat **ZHAO** by 55 Imps to 16 (17.01-2.99 in Victory Points). **DE BOTTON** beat **HUNGARY** by 78-42 (16.64-3.36) **MELTZER** beat **MILNER** by 81-36 (17.69-2.31) and **TEAM NL** beat **STREET** by 53-38 (13.34-6.66).

## Ranking after Round 1:

1. **MELTZER** 17.69
2. **BLASS** 17.01
3. **DE BOTTON** 16.64
4. **TEAM NL** 13.34
5. **STREET** 6.66
6. **HUNGARY** 3.36
7. **ZHAO** 2.99
8. **MILNER** 2.31

North dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	?

What would you do as South with:

- ♠ AQJ1062
- ♥ A75
- ♦ 7
- ♣ AJ3

In days gone by, overcalls other than a 1NT overcall were limited to about 16 HCP, 6 or more losers. If stronger than that, one would start with a takeout double and bid your 5+ suit later. There is a modern tendency to overcall with even very strong hands, up to about 18 points. Most Souths either do not adhere to the modern style or upgraded their hand because of the excellent spades, the control in every suit and sitting over the opening bid. Six Souths chose to double and two opted for 1♠.

North dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North ♠ 95 ♥ J42 ♦ 1063 ♣ KQ1065	
West ♠ 874 ♥ K10 ♦ 9842 ♣ 9742		East ♠ K3 ♥ Q9863 ♦ AKQJ5 ♣ 8
	South ♠ AQJ1062 ♥ A75 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ3	

#### DE BOTTON vs HUNGARY

HUNGARY North-South:

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

West's 2♥ allowed North to show some values, about 6-9 points, with the 3♣ bid. That was enough for South to jump to 4♠. West led ♥K. South won, played the ♣3 to the ♣K, followed by the ♠9: three – two – four and the ♠5, king, ace, and the ♠Q. South made 12 tricks, +480. The spade slam is excellent. It makes if East has ♠K, ♠K-x, ♠K-x-x (and no club void).

DE BOTTON North-South:

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

South led the ♠A and so East made 10 tricks, +130 and +12 Imps.

#### BLASS vs ZHAO

BLASS North-South:

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

North's excellent double of 3♦ showed useful values for the 2♣ bid. That was enough for South to bid 4♠. West led the ♥K. South won, crossed to dummy with a club and ran the ♠9. North-South +480.

	North	
	♠ 95	
	♥ J42	
	♦ 1063	
	♣ KQ1065	
West		East
♠ 874		♠ K3
♥ K10		♥ Q9863
♦ 9842		♦ AKQJ5
♣ 9742		♣ 8
	South	
	♠ AQJ1062	
	♥ A75	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AJ3	

ZHAO North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♠
4♦	4♠	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's jump to 3♠ opposite a hand that could have no points usually shows a 4-loser hand. A 2♣ bid by South here would be about 5 losers or an upgraded 6-loser hand.

South led the ♠A, followed by the ♠2. East won, cashed ♦A, ♦K, played the ♥3 to the ♥K and ran the ♥10 to the ♥A. Declarer still had a club to lose, one down, -100 but + 9 Imps.

MELTZER vs MILNER

Overcalling 1♠ on the South cards does not automatically mean that you miss 4♠:

MELTZER North-South:

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

Of course, 1♠ might have been passed out. Lucky for South that East had a routine 2♦ re-opening.

West led the ♥K. South took the usual path to 12 tricks, +480.

MILNER North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♦!	All Pass

South led the ♠A, followed by the ♠Q. East won and played ♥3 to the ♥K, followed by the ♥10 to the ♥A. East made ten tricks, +130 and +12 Imps.

	North	
	♠ 95	
	♥ J42	
	♦ 1063	
	♣ KQ1065	
West		East
♠ 874		♠ K3
♥ K10		♥ Q9863
♦ 9842		♦ AKQJ5
♣ 9742		♣ 8
	South	
	♠ AQJ1062	
	♥ A75	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AJ3	

STREET vs TEAM NL:

STREET North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
4♦	Dble!	Pass	4♥ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Pick a game, partner.

North's double showed values, considering North's 2♣ might have had no strength. South's 4♥ offered North the choice of 4♠ or 5♣. West led the ♥K and South made 12 tricks in the usual manner, North-South +480. Given West's 4♦, East might have bid on to 5♦. In the worst case scenario (South leads a low club to North, who switches to a spade), East is still only -300 in 5♦ doubled. In the real world, 5♦ doubled will be -100.

Just because South makes a takeout double initially is no guarantee that North-South will reach game.

TEAM NL North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
3♦	Dble!	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♥K. South won and, praying the ♠K would be with West, played ♠A and ♠2, won by the ♠K. East cashed the ♦Q and West showed an even number. East switched to the ♥Q and gave West a heart ruff. That held South to 9 tricks, +140, East-West +8 Imps.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	1♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	1♣	Pass
		3♥	?

(1) 4+ hearts

(2) For takeout, like a takeout double over a natural 1♥

What would you do as South with:

♠ J96532  
♥ 108  
♦ 952  
♣ 93

2. South dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
			?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AQ765  
♥ AQ932  
♦ 6  
♣ Q2

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

*Why is 'phonetic' not spelled the way it sounds?*