65. Going quietly....or not

By Ron Klinger

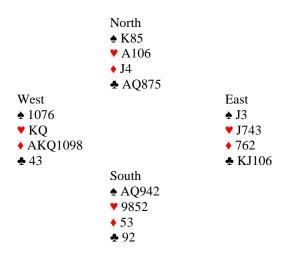
As dealer, vulnerable vs not vulnerable, what would you do with:

- **★** 1076
- **♥** KO
- ♦ AKQ1098
- **♣** 43

The deal comes from Session 5 of the BBO matches between the current Australian Open Team (Nabil Edgtton – Andy Hung, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Michael Courtney – Paul Wyer) and the New Zealand Open Team (Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell, Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Peter Newell – Martin Reid).

With the hand above, I thought one would open 1♦ and if partner bids 1♥ or 1♠, one might rebid 3♦ (aggressive) or 2♦ (conservative). Shows how little I know. Both Wests (Hans and Tislevoll) opted for a 1NT opening. For Hans it was 14-16 points, for Tislevoll 15-17.

Bd. 5: West dealer: East-West vulnerable



For Hans (W), 1NT kept the opponents quiet. In theory, the defenders can take five spades and two aces (chalk up a plus for the 1♦ opening). In practice, that did not happen. North led the ♣5. Declarer won with dummy's ♣10 and rattled off six rounds of diamonds. South kept all his spades and the defenders took the rest of the tricks, East-West +90.

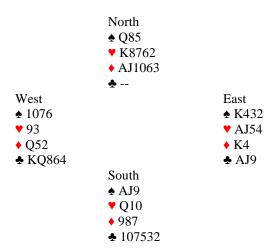
Courtney (N) is not inclined to go quietly and he doubled West's 1NT opening. Wyer (S) bid $2 \frac{1}{2}$, all pass. West cashed A, K and switched to the K. South took the A and drew trumps. He lost 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and a club, but had 8 tricks for +110, 5 Imps to Australia. Meanwhile, as the cards lie, East-West can make A.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♥	$1NT^{(1)}$	Pass
Pass	?		
(1) 15-18 p	oints		

What would you do as North with:

- **♦** Q85
- **♥** K8762
- ♦ AJ1063
- <u>-</u>-

Bd. 7: South dealer: Both vulnerable



At both tables, it began Pass: Pass: $1 \cdot 1$. With Courtney East, 1NT was passed out. South led the 5: four -4. East played the K, which held the trick, followed by J, K, Q, North shedding A, 5 and 6. East had taken five tricks. The A would make six, but where is the seventh? Declarer played dummy's 6: queen – four – nine. North shifted to the 6, jack, queen, and South returned the 1. East took the A and exited with the 4. North was down to red cards only. He could cash his heart winners, but then had to give a trick to dummy's Q, East-West +90.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Reid	Hans	Newell	Gill
			Pass
Pass	1♥	$1NT^{(1)}$	Pass
Pass	2 ♦!	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
(1) 15 10	-:		

- (1) 15-18 points
- (2) Primarily for takeout

Note North's fine 2♦ rebid, despite having only 10 HCP and a 1NT bidder sitting over him. Shape is king.

North led the $\P 8$: ace – ten – three. The $\P K$ was ducked and North won the next diamond cheaply. The $\P 7$ went to the $\P Q$ and South shifted to $\P 2$: four – $\P 2$ – $\P 9$. After $\P 5$: $\P 8$ – $\P 6$ – $\P 6$, West played $\P 7$: eight – king – ace. South returned a trump. Declarer made a heart, a diamond, a diamond ruff in dummy and five trumps in hand, eight tricks, –100 and 5 Imps to Australia.

Australia won Session 5 by 25-11.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer: East-West vulnerable

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

- (1) 4+ clubs, not balanced or any balanced hand outside the no-trump ranges
- (2) 4+ hearts
- (3) Denies three hearts
- (4) Good raise to 2♠

What would you do as South with:

- **♠** QJ852
- **♥** A832
- **\ --**
- ♣ K952
- 2. West dealer: North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

- **▲** A75432
- **♥** K962
- **\ --**
- ♣ AK2

Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

To relieve the boredom of isolation, my wife and I decided to go north for the day. So we took a few steps out the front door. Tomorrow we might head south via the back door.