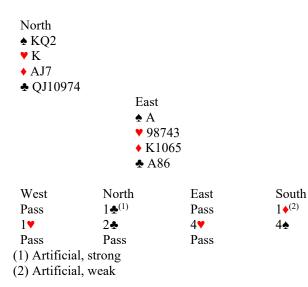
# 76. The easy beats

## By Ron Klinger

West dealer: North-South vulnerable

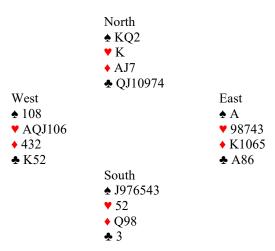


West leads the ♥A: king – nine – two and the ♦4: seven from dummy. What would you play as East?

Today's deals are from Round 4 of Alt-Invitational III. These were the scores after Round 3:

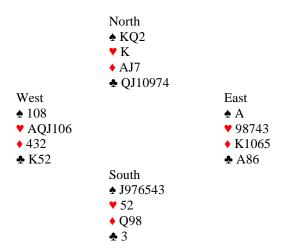
#### **VPs After Round 3** 1. Blass 55.38 2. Street 35.36 3. Russia 33.30 4. Donner 31.71 5. Gupta 26.08 6. Bridge Scanner 23.46 7. De Botton 22.57 8. Rosenthal 12.14

You are probably wondering why I gave you such an easy problem as the one above. This was the full deal:



It seems routine to win with the  $\bigstar$ K, play the  $\bigstar$ A and the  $\bigstar$ A and  $4 \bigstar$  is one down. West did the right thing by playing the  $\bigstar$ 4, high-hate: seven – ten? – queen. South ruffed the  $\forall$ 5 and played  $\bigstar$ Q, ace. East switched to  $\bigstar$ 6. West won and returned  $\bigstar$ 3, ace. Then came  $\bigstar$ Q, ace, ruffed,  $\bigstar$ 4 to  $\bigstar$ K,  $\bigstar$ J to discard  $\bigstar$ 9, 10 tricks, N-S +620.

West dealer: North-South vulnerable



At the other table, North was in 4♠ after a transfer bid by South. West had shown hearts and East had supported hearts. East led the ♥9 (no heart honours). West took the ♥A and shifted to the ♦4, low, king. East cashed the ♣A and the ♠A meant one down, East-West + 100 and 12 Imps to GUPTA.

For DONNER, South was in 4♠ after North opened a strong 1♠ and East competed in hearts. West led the ♥A and switched to the ♦4: seven – king – eight. East cashed the ♣A and South ended one down, East-West +100.

BLASS North-South: West opened 1♥, North overcalled 2♣, East bid 4♥, all pass. North led the ♣Q. West won with dummy's ♣A and ran the ♥9 to the ♥K. North played the ♣J and South ruffed. West could not avoid losing two diamonds, one light, North-South +50 and 4 Imps to BLASS.

STREET North-South: With East-West passing, North opened 1♣. South responded 1♠. North rebid 3♠, all pass. East led the ♥8. West took the ♥A and returned a heart. Declarer finished three down, –300, but could have done better.

BRIDGE SCANNER North-South: 1♥: 2♣: 3♣ – good heart raise: Pass, 3♥: Pass: 4♥, all pass. The play went the same way as in BLASS N-S above, North-South +50 and 8 Imps to BRIDGE SCANNER.

RUSSIA North-South: Pass : 1 - 1 (no suit quality needed) : 2 (transfer to spades), 4 : 4 all pass. 4 lead to 4 switch: seven – king – ace. East-West +100.

DE BOTTON North-South: After a complex auction, South was in 4♠, doubled by West. After ♥A lead and ♦4 switch, seven, king, and ♣A cashed, finished one down, −200 and 3 Imps to RUSSIA.

North dealer: Both vulnerable

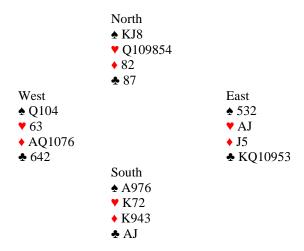
West	North	East	South
	<b>2</b> ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	<b>4♣</b> <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	<b>4</b> ♦ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) Weak two in hearts or in spades
- (2) Transfer me to your major
- (3) Weak two in hearts

What would you lead as West from:

- **♦** Q104
- **7** 63
- ♦ AQ1076
- **♣** 642

North dealer: Both vulnerable



BLASS North-South: After the auction given, West led the ♠4, a poor choice. Dummy's ♠8 held trick 1. Then came ▼10: jack – king – six and the ▼2 to the ▼A. East switched to the ♠Q, ace. Declarer finessed the ♠J, overtook the ♠K and ditched dummy's club loser on the ♠9. Declarer lost 2 diamonds, but had 10 tricks, +620.

Why was the ♣4 lead so bad? Firstly, there was nothing in the auction to suggest the need for an attacking lead, no evidence of a long suit in dummy or with declarer outside trumps. Secondly, South's 4♣, transfer me to your major, implied length and probably strength in both majors. South was prepared to play in 4♠. In effect, the ♣4 start was leading a suit bid by declarer. The passive club lead would be the primary choice, with the ♥3 as second pick.

**DONNER** North-South:  $2 \checkmark$ :  $3 \spadesuit$ :  $4 \checkmark$ , all pass. East led the  $4 \spadesuit$ K, ace. The  $4 \spadesuit$ 2 went to the queen and ace. East cashed the  $4 \spadesuit$ Q. What next? West had played  $4 \spadesuit$ 2 –  $4 \spadesuit$ 4, lowest card each time as suit-preference for diamonds. East switched to the  $4 \spadesuit$ J, king, ace. West cashed the  $4 \spadesuit$ Q and continued with the  $4 \spadesuit$ C:  $4 \spadesuit$ B. That was two down, East-West +200 and 13 Imps to BLASS.

GUPTA North-South:  $P: P: 1NT: P, 2 \leftarrow -$  hearts:  $P: 2 \lor : P, P: 3 \hookleftarrow : P: P: 3 \lor$ , all pass. West led the  $\clubsuit 2$ : seven – queen – ace. Declarer played a trump to the queen and ace. The defence followed the same path as in DONNER N-S above to score five tricks and take  $3 \lor$  one down, East-West +100.

STREET North-South: 2♦ – multi, weak two in hearts or in spades: Pass: 4♣ – transfer me to your major: Pass, 4♦ – hearts: Pass: 4♥, all pass. West led the ♣4 and the defence collected their usual five tricks as above, East-West +200.

#### **BRIDGE SCANNER North-South:**

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	2♥	$2NT^{(2)}$	Dble
3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 4+ diamonds

(2) Pick a minor

East led the ♣K. Declarer went two down, East-West +500 and 7 Imps to STREET.

#### **Round 4 Results:**

	Imps	Victory Points
Blass - Donner	50 - 23	15.39 - 4.61
Street – Bridge Scanner	31 - 75	2.42 - 17.58
Gupta - Rosenthal	77 - 23	18.56 - 1.44
Russia - De Botton	50 - 37	12.95 - 7.05

### **Standings after Round 4:**

1. Blass	70.77
2. Russia	46.25
3. Gupta	44.64
4. Bridge Scanner	41.04
5. Street	37.78
6. Donner	36.32
7. De Botton	29.62
8. Rosenthal	13.58

## **Problems for Tomorrow:**

1. North dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

- **★** 862
- **¥** 32
- ♦ AKQ2
- **♣** J632
- 2. You are the dealer, neither side vulnerable. What would you do with:
- **♠** KQ108742
- **V** --
- **♦** 93
- **♣** 10954

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

Might sleep on the couch tonight to cut out the morning commute.