

# 76. The easy beats

*By Ron Klinger*

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

North

♠ KQ2

♥ K

♦ AJ7

♣ QJ10974

East

♠ A

♥ 98743

♦ K1065

♣ A86

West

Pass

1♥

Pass

North

1♣<sup>(1)</sup>

2♣

Pass

East

Pass

4♥

Pass

South

1♦<sup>(2)</sup>

4♠

(1) Artificial, strong

(2) Artificial, weak

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:

North

♠ KQ2

♥ K

♦ AJ7

♣ QJ10974

West

♠ 108

♥ AQJ106

♦ 432

♣ K52

East

♠ A

♥ 98743

♦ K1065

♣ A86

South

♠ J976543

♥ 52

♦ Q98

♣ 3

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

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ2	
	♥ K	
	♦ AJ7	
	♣ QJ10974	
West		East
♠ 108		♠ A
♥ AQJ106		♥ 98743
♦ 432		♦ K1065
♣ K52		♣ A86
	South	
	♠ J976543	
	♥ 52	
	♦ Q98	
	♣ 3	

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. ♥8 lead to ♥A, ♦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
	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	4♦ <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  
♥ 63  
♦ AQ1076  
♣ 642

North dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KJ8	
	♥ Q109854	
	♦ 82	
	♣ 87	
West		East
♠ Q104		♠ 532
♥ 63		♥ AJ
♦ AQ1076		♦ J5
♣ 642		♣ KQ10953
	South	
	♠ A976	
	♥ K72	
	♦ K943	
	♣ AJ	

**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♥ : 3♣ : 4♥, all pass. East led the ♠K, ace. The ♥2 went to the queen and ace. East cashed the ♣Q. What next? West had played ♣2 – ♣4, lowest card each time as suit-preference for diamonds. East switched to the ♦J, king, ace. West cashed the ♦Q and continued with the ♦6: ♥8, ♥J. That was two down, East-West +200 and 13 Imps to **BLASS**.

**GUPTA** North-South: P : P : 1NT : P, 2♦ – hearts : P : 2♥ : P, P : 3♣ : P : P : 3♥, all pass. West led the ♣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♥ one down, East-West +100.

**ROSENTHAL** North-South: Pass : 2♣ – 5+ clubs, 10-15 points : Double : 3♣, 3♥ : Pass : 4♥, all pass. East led the ♠K. The defence collected a club, two diamonds and a diamond over-ruff, plus the ♥A, two off, East-West +200 and 3 Imps to **GUPTA**.

**STREET** North-South: 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♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♥	2NT <sup>(2)</sup>	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
<b>Blass - Donner</b>	50 - 23	15.39 - 4.61
<b>Street – Bridge Scanner</b>	31 - 75	2.42 - 17.58
<b>Gupta - Rosenthal</b>	77 - 23	18.56 - 1.44
<b>Russia - De Botton</b>	50 - 37	12.95 - 7.05

### Standings after Round 4:

<b>1. Blass</b>	70.77
<b>2. Russia</b>	46.25
<b>3. Gupta</b>	44.64
<b>4. Bridge Scanner</b>	41.04
<b>5. Street</b>	37.78
<b>6. Donner</b>	36.32
<b>7. De Botton</b>	29.62
<b>8. Rosenthal</b>	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  
♥ --  
♦ 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.*