82. Leaps of imagination

By Ron Klinger

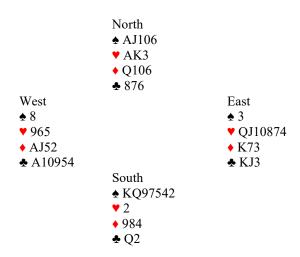
With neither side vulnerable South opens 3♠ and North raises to 4♠, all pass. What do you lead as West from:

- **♦**8
- **9**65
- ♦ AJ52
- ♣ A10954

Today's deals come from the quarter-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams).

On this deal, the defence needed to take their tricks quickly:

Bd. 46: South dealer: Nil vulnerable



At seven tables it went 3♠ by South, 4♠ by North, all pass. Nystrom led the diamond ace, Danailov, Forrester, Klukowski led the club ace and Kranyak led the club nine. They all defeated 4♠. Hou and Combescure led the heart five. Declarer ditched a club on the second heart, drew trumps and the favourable diamond position allowed South to lose only one club and two diamonds, +420.

Rodwell had gone one down in 4♠ on the club ace lead. At the remaining table:

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Jason Hackett	Levin	Justin Hackett
			2♠
Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♥	4♠
5♥	Dble	All Pass	
(1) Asking fo	r a feature		

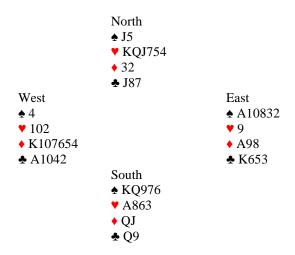
Declarer lost a spade, two hearts and misguessed clubs for two down, North-South +300, 8 Imps to England.

South dealer: North-South vulnerable

Vulnerable against not, partner opens 1♠, you respond 1NT and partner rebids 2♥. What would you do with:

- **♠** J5
- **♥** KOJ754
- **♦** 32
- **♣** J87

Bd. 48: South dealer: North-South vulnerable



For BULGARIA, North bid $4 \checkmark$ over $2 \checkmark$, all pass. The defence took the first three tricks: 4 lead to the A; 48, ruffed by West; 7 to A; 49 to K; A6, three light, East-West +300.

SWEDEN North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

North led the \forall K: nine – three – two. Perhaps thinking the \forall 3 was suit-preference for clubs, North shifted to the \triangle J. West won with the \triangle K, played \rightarrow K and \rightarrow A, followed by the \triangle 3, queen, ace for 12 tricks, +420 and 3 Imps to BULGARIA.

ENGLAND North-South had the 1♠: 1NT, 2♥: 4♥, all pass auction. South went three down, East-West +300.

USA North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
3♦	Pass	3 ♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

(1) Strong hand, spades stopped

North led the \forall K: nine – six – ten and switched to the \Rightarrow 3. West played \Rightarrow A, \Rightarrow K and lost a club later for 11 tricks, East-West +400, 3 Imps to ENGLAND.

USA2 North-South had the 1♠: 1NT, 2♥: 4♥, all pass auction. South went three down, East-West +300.

With CHINA North-South it began 1♠: 2♦: 2♥: 2♠ (strong hand) and ended in 5♦, +400, 3 Imps to USA2.

With FRANCE North-South it went 1♠: 3♦: Pass: 3NT, Pass: Pass: Double: 4♦, all pass, East-West +150.

With POLAND North-South it went 1♠: 2♦: 2♥: 2♥: 2♠, 3♥: Pass: Pass: 4♦, all pass, East-West +150, no swing.

After 48 boards, the halfway mark in the Bermuda Bowl quarter-finals, Sweden 123 led Bulgaria 73.5, China 135 led USA2 110, England 101 led USA1 99 and France led Poland 127-102.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer: North-South vulnerable

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North
                  ♠ AQ8
                  ♥ K
                  ♦ A109652
                  ♣ 763
 West
 ★ 10962
 y 52
 ♦ KQJ84
 ♣ 109
 West
                North
                                 East
                                                South
                                 1♣
                                                 1♥
 Dble<sup>(1)</sup>
                                                2
                2 •
                                 Pass
 Pass
                3♥
                                 All Pass
(1) 4+ spades
1. West leads the ♣10: three – ace - eight
2. East plays the ♣K: jack – nine – six
3. East plays the ♣Q: four from South . . .
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Which card do you play at trick 3?

2. East dealer: Nil vulnerable

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North

♠ AJ4

♥ J8

♦ 73
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♣ AJ10652

East
♠ 93
♥ 754
♦ J84
♣ KQ987

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	Pass ⁽²⁾	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) For takeout
- (2) For penalties
- 1. West leads the ♦A: three jack (singleton or discouraging) two.
- 2. West switches to the ♥3: jack five two.
- 3. Declarer plays dummy's ♦7: eight nine ten.
- 4. West continues with the ♥6: eight four nine.
- 5. Declarer plays ♣4: three ace seven
- 6. and the $\clubsuit 2$: nine $\checkmark 10 \checkmark K$.
- 7. West plays the $\bigstar K: 45 44 5$
- 8. and the ♦Q: ♣6 from dummy . . . which card do you play as East?

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

I need to social distance myself from the refrigerator so that I can flatten my curve.