

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
♥ 965
♦ 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

	North	
	♠ AJ106	
	♥ AK3	
	♦ Q106	
	♣ 876	
West		East
♠ 8		♠ 3
♥ 965		♥ QJ10874
♦ AJ52		♦ K73
♣ A10954		♣ KJ3
	South	
	♠ KQ97542	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 984	
	♣ Q2	

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
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Jason Hackett</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Justin Hackett</i>
Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♥	2♠
5♥	Dble	All Pass	4♠

(1) Asking for 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
♥ KQJ754
♦ 32
♣ J87

Bd. 48: South dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ J5	
	♥ KQJ754	
	♦ 32	
	♣ J87	
West		East
♠ 4		♠ A10832
♥ 102		♥ 9
♦ K107654		♦ A98
♣ A1042		♣ K653
	South	
	♠ KQ976	
	♥ A863	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ Q9	

For **BULGARIA**, North bid 4♥ over 2♥, all pass. The defence took the first three tricks: ♠4 lead to the ♠A; ♠8, ruffed by West; ♦7 to ♦A; ♦9 to ♦K; ♣A; ♣K, three light, East-West +300.

SWEDEN North-South:

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

North led the ♥K: nine – three – two. Perhaps thinking the ♥3 was suit-preference for clubs, North shifted to the ♣J. West won with the ♣K, played ♦K and ♦A, followed by the ♣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 ♥K: nine – six – ten and switched to the ♦3. West played ♦A, ♦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♠, 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

	North		
	♠ AQ8		
	♥ K		
	♦ A109652		
	♣ 763		
West			
♠ 10962			
♥ 52			
♦ KQJ84			
♣ 109			

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

Which card do you play at trick 3?

2. East dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North		
	♠ AJ4		
	♥ J8		
	♦ 73		
	♣ AJ10652		
		East	
		♠ 93	
		♥ 754	
		♦ J84	
		♣ KQ987	

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

(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 ♣2: nine – ♥10 – ♥K.
7. West plays the ♦K: ♣5 – ♦4 – ♦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.