

83. Long live the queen? Perhaps not

By Ron Klinger

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?

Today's deals come from team matches on BBO (Bridge Base Online).

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ8	
	♥ K	
	♦ A109652	
	♣ 763	
West		East
♠ 10962		♠ K3
♥ 52		♥ J1043
♦ KQJ84		♦ 73
♣ 109		♣ AKQ52
	South	
	♠ J754	
	♥ AQ9876	
	♦ --	
	♣ J84	

East played ♣A, ♣K, ♣Q, highest card each time. That has to be suit-preference for spades. The normal play for East is to win with the cheapest card, the ♣Q, at trick 1. When partner departs from the normal order, that is usually intended as a suit-preference signal.

After ruffing ♣Q, West switches to ♠10: eight – king – four and in due course, East makes a trump trick for one down, East-West +50. As the cards lie, it makes no difference which card West plays at trick 3. South is bound to lose a spade and a heart for one down. Still, personal pride demands you ruff ♣Q at trick 3 and play a spade.

At the other table, it went 1♣ : 1♥ : 1♠ : 2♦, Pass : 2♥, all pass. West led ♣10. East won with the ♣Q, followed by ♣A and ♣K, West discarding ♠2. East switched to ♥3. South made 8 tricks, +110 and +4 Imps.

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?

This time it was essential to do the right thing:

East dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AJ4	
	♥ J8	
	♦ 73	
	♣ AJ10652	
West		East
♠ K10865		♠ 93
♥ K63		♥ 754
♦ AKQ10		♦ J84
♣ 3		♣ KQ987
	South	
	♠ Q72	
	♥ AQ1092	
	♦ 9652	
	♣ 4	

After the first seven tricks as above, these cards remained:

	North	
	♠ AJ4	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ J106	
West		East
♠ K10865		♠ 93
♥		♥ 7
♦ Q		♦
♣		♣ KQ8
	South	
	♠ Q72	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ 6	
	♣	

When West led the ♦Q, the ♣6 was ditched from dummy. East ruffed and played a top club. South ruffed and finessed the ♠J, but could not avoid a spade loser for one down, East-West +50.

If East fails to ruff the ♦Q, West is left on lead with only spades left. Whether West plays the ♠10 or lower, South will duck in dummy, win with the ♠Q and finesse the ♠J.

Double dummy, South could have made 2♥ (win the second heart lead and play the ♥A), but naturally could not believe that West had bared the ♥K. South presumed West had started with ♠K, ♦A-K-Q and only two hearts, while East had ♥K-x-x-x and ♠K-Q. If so, South planned to collect two heart tricks (already in by trick 4), ♠A, club ruff, spade finesse, club ruff, ♠A and the ♥A for eight tricks.

Note Jodi Tutty's neat play as West, playing two low hearts from K-6-3, leaving the ♥K singleton.

	North	
	♠ AJ4	
	♥ J8	
	♦ 73	
	♣ AJ10652	
West		East
♠ K10865		♠ 93
♥ K63		♥ 754
♦ AKQ10		♦ J84
♣ 3		♣ KQ987
	South	
	♠ Q72	
	♥ AQ1092	
	♦ 9652	
	♣ 4	

At the other table:

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

(1) Rescue redouble: Please pick another suit.

East led the ♥4: two – king – eight. West cashed ♦A, ♦K, followed by the ♥3. South overtook the ♥J with the ♥Q and cashed the ♥A. Neither the subsequent play nor the defence was flawless. North finished with eight tricks, +470 and +11 Imps.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	?	1♣
(1) 4+ spades			

What would you do as East with:

♠ 1064
♥ J42
♦ A1095
♣ 954

Would your answer change if it had started:

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠ ⁽¹⁾	?	1♣
(1) 5+ spades			

2. East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	?	Pass	1NT

What would you do as North with:

♠ A963
♥ Q82
♦ AJ32
♣ 98

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

Ontario has banned groups larger than 5. If you're a family of 6, you are all about to find out who's the least favourite!