

## 86. Full speed ahead and damn the torpedoes

*By Ron Klinger*

East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♠	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1♦

(1) For takeout

What would you do as East with:

♠ 975  
♥ A98  
♦ K76  
♣ 10932

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

Session 4 : Board 52

East dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 6	
	♥ KJ65	
	♦ J8532	
	♣ A85	
West		East
♠ AKQ10843		♠ 975
♥ Q73		♥ A98
♦ 9		♦ K76
♣ 74		♣ 10932
	South	
	♠ J2	
	♥ 1042	
	♦ AQ104	
	♣ KQJ6	

A popular start, after East passed, was 1♣ or 1♦ by South and 3♠ by West. North doubled, primarily for takeout. East has one sure winner and one potential winner, two tricks at best. Given that West's trick-taking expectation is 7 tricks on a good day and 6 tricks in the modern game, East has a sound pass. You hope that the pre-empt has done its work and that the opposition will do the wrong thing.

That's the theory. Now for the practice. Hurd, East for USA2, raised to 4♠. You can see what he was thinking. North-South probably have a game on, so let's push it a bit higher. Everyone passed. That was lucky for East-West, since one is usually on safe ground in doubling when a pre-empt is raised to game by a passed hand. Here a double by North or South would have netted 500.

West, Wooldridge, took the heart six lead with the ace and went two down, North-South +200. Ducking would have saved a trick. At the other table it went 1♦ : 3♠, all pass. The diamond two was led and declarer went one down, North-South +100, 3 Imps to China.

Both Easts for Bulgaria and Sweden bid 4♠ and both went two down. However, Sweden was doubled, -500 and 7 Imps to Bulgaria for -200.

East dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 6	
	♥ KJ65	
	♦ J8532	
	♣ A85	
West		East
♠ AKQ10843		♠ 975
♥ Q73		♥ A98
♦ 9		♦ K76
♣ 74		♣ 10932
	South	
	♠ J2	
	♥ 1042	
	♦ AQ104	
	♣ KQJ6	

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
3♠	Dble	Pass	1♣
Pass	Dble	4♠	Pass
		All Pass	

North led a trump and declarer finished two down, North-South +500.

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin Hackett</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Jason Hackett</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♦
3♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	4♦	2♠	2NT
		All Pass	

(1) Trial bid for 4♠

West led the spade king and the spade queen was ruffed, followed by the diamond jack, winning, the ♦3 to the ♦Q and the ♦A. Declarer lost two hearts, but had the rest, North-South +130 but 9 Imps to England.

After Pass : 1♦, Bessis (West for France) overcalled 1♠. North-South played 4♦, Poland +130. The other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	<i>Tessieres</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>
4♠	5♦	Pass	1♦
		All Pass	

West led ♠A and East followed with the ♠9. If this was suit-preference for hearts, West should have disobeyed it. It is hard to see how any heart tricks for the defence could run away. However, West switched to ♥7: five – eight – ten and South made 5♦, +600, 10 Imps to France. A top spade or anything but a heart at trick 2 beats 5♦.

South dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠	?		1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
(1) 15-17			

What would you do as North with:

♠ Q72  
 ♥ K95  
 ♦ J5  
 ♣ Q10983

South dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ Q72	
	♥ K95	
	♦ J5	
	♣ Q10983	
West		East
♠ AJ9654		♠ 8
♥ 762		♥ J1083
♦ AQ9		♦ 108764
♣ A		♣ J64
	South	
	♠ K103	
	♥ AQ4	
	♦ K32	
	♣ K752	

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
			1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Dble <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (1) 14-16 points  
(2) Strong hand

Maybe it is being wise after the event, but North's 8 HCP with that potential in clubs could justify a vulnerable game invitation, even opposite the 14-16 1NT. North led the ♣9, ducked to West, who played the ♥2. South captured the ♥J and switched to the ♦2, nine, jack. North returned the ♦5. West won and played ♠A and ♠J: queen – ♦7 – ♠K. South played a third diamond, ruffed by North. West lost a diamond, a diamond ruff, two spades and three hearts, North-South +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Kang</i>
			1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Dble <sup>(2)</sup>	Rdbl <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2♣

- (1) 13-15 points  
(2) Strong hand  
(3) Rescue, puppet to 2♣

Declarer also finished two down, no swing. Sweden also played in 2♠ by West but went one down, North-South +50. At the other table Sweden's South was in 2NT, +150, +3 Imps.

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Jason Hackett</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Justin Hackett</i>
			1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (1) 15-17 points

West's double showed one minor or the majors or a good 2♠ overcall or some other good hand. After this start North-South might have headed for 3NT. West went one down, North-South +50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bakshi</i>	<i>Katz</i>
			1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
2♠	3NT!	All Pass	

- (1) 15-17 points

No namby-pamby approach for Nickell. He produced the Nike bid, 'Just do it'. The spade four lead was won by the ten. South played a club. West won and returned the ♦Q. South won and took nine tricks, +600, 11 Imps for USA1. The same view as Nickell's was taken in the remaining match:

	North		
	♠ Q72		
	♥ K95		
	♦ J5		
	♣ Q10983		
West		East	
♠ AJ9654		♠ 8	
♥ 762		♥ J1083	
♦ AQ9		♦ 108764	
♣ A		♣ J64	
	South		
	♠ K103		
	♥ AQ4		
	♦ K32		
	♣ K752		

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Volker</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
<i>Tessieres</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Lhuisser</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
			1NT <sup>(1)</sup>

2♦<sup>(2)</sup>

3NT!

(1) 15-17 points

(2) 1-suiter in hearts or in spades

With Bessis declarer, 3NT was passed out. West led the ♠A and a second spade, taken by the king. South cashed the ♥A and then led a low club. He had nine tricks, North-South +600.

At the other table, Tessieres elected to double 3NT. He led a low spade, won by the ten. South played a club, ace, and West continued with a low spade. Declarer collected his nine tricks, North-South +750, 4 Imps to Poland. Note that South is minimum for the 1NT opening and has poor shape, yet 3NT presented no problems.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer : Nil vulnerable

North	
♠ Q875	
♥ J5	
♦ AJ986	
♣ 97	
	East
	♠ AJ962
	♥ 102
	♦ 1075
	♣ 1042

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

(1) 10-14 points, 5+ clubs

West leads the ♦3, ace from dummy. Which diamond would you play as East?

Declarer plays the ♥J from dummy. Which heart would you play as East?

2. South dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North		
	♠ Q976		
	♥ 964		
	♦ KJ97		
	♣ 94		
West			
♠ 84			
♥ K1032			
♦ 864			
♣ AKJ10			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT (15-17)

1. West leads the ♣A: four – two (encouraging) – seven.
2. West switches to the ♥2: four – ace – five.
3. East returns the ♣5: queen – king – nine.
4. West cashes the ♣J: ♠6 – ♣6 – ♦2.
5. West cashes the ♣10: ♥6 – ♣3 – ♦5.

What would you play as West at trick 6?

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

*Things are improving. I just tried to make my own hand sanitizer and it came out as a rum & coke!*