

98. It's been a heart day's night

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	?		

(1) Trial bid, seeking help in clubs

What would you do as North with:

♠ 107543
♥ KJ6
♦ J107
♣ A7

The deal comes from a BBO match, Jessica Brake (N) – Susan Humphries (S), members of the 2020 Australian Women's Team. In the auction above, Brake rebid 4♣ as North. She had a maximum hand for her 2♥ bid and 4♣ showed control in clubs. This was a cost-nothing bid. With no slam interest, South would rebid 4♥. With slam interest, North had shown her values.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North <i>Jessica Brake</i>	
	♠ 107543	
	♥ KJ6	
	♦ J107	
	♣ A7	
West		East
♠ Q86		♠ KJ9
♥ Q		♥ 9854
♦ K95432		♦ Q86
♣ Q54		♣ 986
	South <i>Susan Humphries</i>	
	♠ A2	
	♥ A10732	
	♦ A	
	♣ KJ1032	

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	4NT ⁽³⁾
Pass	5♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Trial bid, seeking help in clubs

(2) Maximum 2♥ raise, control in clubs

(3) Asking for key cards

(4) Two, no ♥Q

With a spade loser, the ♥Q missing and needing the clubs to come home, the slam is nothing flash, but it had the merit of being successful. West led the ♠6: three – nine – ace. Declarer played the ♥2, queen, king and cashed the ♥J. Then came ♣A, ♣K and third club ruffed. Trumps were drawn and South had twelve tricks, +1430.

The deal originated in the [BLASS](#) vs [ROSENTHAL](#) quarter-finals of the 2019 Spingold (USA K-O Open Teams).

	North		
	♠ 107543		
	♥ KJ6		
	♦ J107		
	♣ A7		
West		East	
♠ Q86		♠ KJ9	
♥ Q		♥ 9854	
♦ K95432		♦ Q86	
♣ Q54		♣ 986	
	South		
	♠ A2		
	♥ A10732		
	♦ A		
	♣ KJ1032		

	North	East	South
West	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Linqvist</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
<i>Brink</i>			
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥

Given that North might have had ♥K-Q-x and ♣A, South's 4♥ can be considered a touch conservative.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North	East	South
West			1♥
Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	?		

(1) Game-force, 4+ hearts, 15 + points

(2) Minimum opening, no shortage

What would you do as North with:

♠ 93
♥ AKQ1082
♦ AJ76
♣ 5

The North hand has only 5 losers. South's minimum opening will usually have 7 losers. Applying the Losing Trick Count formula, $5 + 7 = 12$ and $24 - 12 = 12$ tricks are probable. North is entitled to ask for key cards and continue with 6♥ if partner shows two. As partner can have at most the jack in hearts, partner's remaining values will be in the outside suits. The deal comes from a match on BBO. Avi Kanetkar (N) could have cue-bid 5♦ or bid 4♠ (their key-card ask) over 4♥, but eschewed both of these, lest they attract a lead-directing double, in favour of a direct jump to 6♥.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 93		
	♥ AKQ1082		
	♦ AJ76		
	♣ 5		
West		East	
♠ J10652		♠ Q74	
♥ 3		♥ 4	
♦ Q8532		♦ 94	
♣ A7		♣ KQ109632	
	South		
	♠ AK8		
	♥ J9765		
	♦ K10		
	♣ J84		

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The South hand was eminently suitable and 6♥ did not tax declarer's skills, North-South +1430.

This deal is from the same BBO Spingold match.
(Directions changed for convenience)

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
			1♥
1♠	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣ ⁽²⁾	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong heart raise

(2) Cue-bid first- or second-round control in clubs

Lead: ♠5. 12 tricks, North-South +680

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Linqvist</i>	<i>Drijver</i>
			1♥
Pass	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong heart raise (maybe a splinter psyche to discourage a spade lead?)

(2) Cue bid

Lead: ♣7. 12 tricks, North-South +680, no swing.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. You are the dealer, vulnerable against not. What would you do with:

♠ KQ1062
♥ QJ
♦ 1052
♣ K63

2. There are three passes to you. The opponents are vulnerable, you are not. What do you do with:

♠ A6
♥ A962
♦ K62
♣ A1065

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

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie.