

124. Boldness be my friend*

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ K10642

♥ K8

♦ 105

♣ KQ84

East

♠ A85

♥ J96

♦ 974

♣ AJ63

West

North

East

South

3♥

Pass

4♥

3♦

All Pass

North leads the ♦10. South takes the ♦A and switches to the ♠7: queen – king – ace. Declarer plays the ♥6: five – ace – eight and the ♥2: king – nine – three. What would you do next as North?

At the beginning of June, bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online), organized Alt-Mixed II. Eight invited teams played a round-robin, followed by semi-finals and a final.

After Round 7, the leaders were [PEPSI](#) (Filipowicz Dominic, Gromov Andrei, Gulevich Anna, Kazmucha Danuta, Pszczola Jacek, Sakr May, 93.04 Victory Points), [RED SEA](#) (Baldysz Cathy, Birman David, Birman Daniela, Grzejdziaik Igor, Grzejdziaik Sabina, Janiszewski Przemek, Poplilov Lilo, Poplilov Matilda, 92.25 VPs), [ALT STARS](#) (Jansma Aida, Jansma Jan, Hammelev Johan, Krefeld Camilla, Pedersen Jan, Rasmussen Helle, Henneberg Jens Ove, Henneberg Marlene, 78.32) and [TIRAMISU](#) (Baroni Irene, Bessis Thomas, Franceschetti Pierre, Lorenzini Cedric, Setton Hilda, Zochowska Joanna, 75.84).

For the semi-finals, [PEPSI](#) chose [ALT STARS](#). [ALT STARS](#) won the first 12-board segment by 40-1. [PEPSI](#) won the second set by 44-0 and, with a carry-forward of 10.1, won the match by 55.1-40. In the other semi-final, [RED SEA](#) beat [TIRAMISU](#) by 32.1-25 [c/f 6.1, 25-7, 1-18].

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West

North

East

South

?

3♦

What would you do as West with:

♠ QJ93

♥ AQ1042

♦ K3

♣ 92

With [PEPSI](#) East-West, 3♦ was passed out. South lost a spade, a heart, a diamond and two clubs, one light, –50.

**Boldness Be My Friend*, written by Richard Pape and published in 1953, tells of Pape's experiences in WWII when he became a navigator in a bomber. He was shot down close to the German/Dutch border, was twice captured, twice escaped, and was eventually repatriated by the Germans after substituting a sick man's urine for his own. He died in Canberra, Australia in 1995 at the age of 79.

Bd. 2: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K10642	
	♥ K8	
	♦ 105	
	♣ KQ84	
West		East
♠ QJ93		♠ A85
♥ AQ1042		♥ J96
♦ K3		♦ 974
♣ 92		♣ AJ63
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ 753	
	♦ AQJ862	
	♣ 1075	

At the other table, after South's 3♦, West for the **ALT STARS** bid 3♥. East raised to 4♥, all pass. North led the ♦10 to the ace and South switched to the ♠7: queen – king – ace. Declarer played the ♥6 to the ♥A and the ♥2, North winning with the ♥K and South playing ♥5-then-♥3. Playing high-low in trumps shows an odd number of trumps and often also indicates a desire for a ruff. Had North returned a spade, South could ruff that. Ideally, North would return the ♠2, suit-preference for clubs. After South ruffs the spade, a club switch will lay declarer low. The defence will come to a trick in each suit for one down, North-South +100 and +4 Imps.

However, after winning with the ♥K, North shifted to the ♣K. Declarer took the ♣A, overtook the ♥J with the ♥Q, cashed the ♦K, the ♥10 and the ♥4. These cards remained:

	North	
	♠ 106	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ Q84	
West		East
♠ J93		♠ 85
♥ 2		♥
♦		♦
♣ 9		♣ J63
	South	
	♠	
	♥	
	♦ QJ86	
	♣ 10	

West continued with the ♥2: ♣4 – ♠5 – ♦6. Now came the *coup de grâce* (nothing to do with mowing the lawn). West exited with the ♣9. If North ducked, the ♠J would win and the next club would endplay North to give West two spade tricks. In practice, North took the ♣Q and played the ♠6, giving South the last three tricks for +620 and +11 Imps. Had North played a club after ♣Q, declarer can also make the last three tricks.

At one table, in the other match, the 3♦ opening by **TIRAMISU** South was passed out, one off, East-West +50. At the other table, with **RED SEA** North-South:

West	North	East	South
			3♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

It is not a good idea to pass West's takeout double of 3♦ out for penalties when you have no trump tricks. All would have been well if the defence had taken their five tricks (1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 2 clubs), but that did not happen. West led ♠Q: two – five – seven (good), followed by ♠J (definitely not good): king – ace – ♦2. Declarer played the ♥3. West took the ♥A and switched to the ♣9: king – six – five. Declarer played the ♥K and the ♠10, followed by the ♦5 to the ♦A and the ♥7, ruffed. Declarer made 9 tricks for +470, +10 Imps.

	North	
	♠ K10642	
	♥ K8	
	♦ 105	
	♣ KQ84	
West		East
♠ QJ93		♠ A85
♥ AQ1042		♥ J96
♦ K3		♦ 974
♣ 92		♣ AJ63
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ 753	
	♦ AQJ862	
	♣ 1075	

So, what should East do after West doubles 3♦? East could try 3♥ or 3♣ and hope for the best or bid 4♣. At least that is a 4-card suit. However, East is pretty strong with a 10-count and two aces. You can see why East chose to play for penalties, even if you do not agree with it. Had West switched to a club at trick 2, there would be applause for East's courageous pass when East-West collect 100. If West doubles – and that would not be my choice – East can bid 4♦, pick a suit. West bids 4♥, all pass. The advantage of 4♦ is that you (East) do not have to guess which suit to bid and West ends up as declarer instead of you.

Still, West could foresee the problem with Double. East might bid 4♣ or 5♣ and West's dummy hand will not be everything a partner desires. Put me down for a 3♥ bid. Bidding 3-over-3 usually shows a good opening hand with a strong suit and about 6 losers. West's ♦K looks well-placed (as long as North does not have a singleton diamond to lead). West has an opening hand, albeit not a great one. The hearts are respectable, although one might expect longer or better hearts, but West does have a 6-loser hand. The 3♥ bid is justified, even though East has a raise to 4♥ and that can be defeated.

This was yesterday's second problem:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	?	1♠

What would you do as East with:

♠ AJ53
 ♥ 87
 ♦ KQ1087
 ♣ 106

Partner has made a 2-level overcall, which can be from 10-16 points, occasionally 17. I cannot see the basis for East's passing 2♥, yet one East did that. The other three Easts bid 2NT, a sensible choice.

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 62	
	♥ J32	
	♦ J63	
	♣ QJ532	
West		East
♠ 107		♠ AJ53
♥ AK10954		♥ 87
♦ A542		♦ KQ1087
♣ 8		♣ 106
	South	
	♠ KQ984	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ 9	
	♣ AK974	

PEPSI North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

West led the ♥A. Declarer lost a spade, two hearts and a diamond, one down, East-West + 50.

ALT STARS North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West's 4♥ showed a 6-card suit and invited East to pass or, if not keen on 4♥, to correct to 5♦. North led ♠6. Declarer took ♠A and played ♥A, ♥K, ♥10 for ten tricks, losing a spade, a heart and a club, +420, +9 Imps.

In the other match:

RED SEA North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Spade stopper, pick a contract

Lead: ♠6. 10 tricks, E-W +420

TIRAMISU North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	Pass	2NT	3♣!
3♥	4♣!	4♥	All Pass

Lead: ♠6. 10 tricks, E-W +420, no swing.

I like South's 3♣ bid over 2NT. That is certainly reasonable with a 5-loser hand. Despite North's weak, balanced hand, 5♣ by North-South would be only two down doubled for -300. Who knows? Maybe East-West then bid 5♥.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ 53
♥ AQJ107632
♦ 6
♣ 105

2. South dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ J752
♥ A72
♦ 73
♣ QJ98

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

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.