## 137. Red in my eyes

## By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South 1♥
2♣	2♥	3♣	<b>4</b> ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

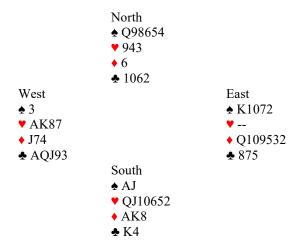
What would you lead as West from:

- **♠** 3 **♥** AK87 **♦** J74
- **♦** AQJ93

You can make a case for the lead of any suit. A singleton appeals. If partner comes on lead partner can give you a spade ruff. Leading the ♥A will give you a look at dummy and you can decide how to continue, perhaps with three rounds of trumps to remove any ruffing power in dummy. The ♦4, the unbid suit, is not likely to do any damage. You could aim for a forcing defence by leading the ♣A and continuing clubs. Maybe you will end up with more trumps than declarer. Make up your mind before reading on.

Some of these leads have better chances than others. The \$\ddot 3\$ lead could work, but there is nothing to say that partner has an entry. The \$\ddot A\$ lead could work if partner has the \$\ddot K\$ and if dummy has length in clubs and declarer is short in clubs. There is no evidence of that and partner does not need to have the \$\ddot K\$ for the raise to 3\$\ddot The \$\ddot 4\$ lead could destroy a trick in diamonds if, say, dummy has \$\ddot K-x-x\$ and declarer \$\ddot A-10-9\$. That leaves a top heart, although that could also give away a trick if partner has the \$\ddot 10\$ or the \$\ddot 9\$ and declarer has Q-J-9-x-x or Q-J-10-x-x. No one is handing out guarantees that your lead will hit gold, but a top heart gives you a good idea for your next move.

This deal arose in a Knockout Teams event in a match between an Australian Team and a USA Team in June.

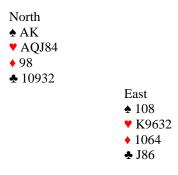


At one table, West led the  $\pm 3$ : eight – ten – jack. Declarer cashed A and ruffed the B in dummy. The A went to the queen and king and West returned the A7, taken by the A9. After A2 to the king and ace, West cashed the A9 and the A9 was ruffed. South lost two hearts and two clubs, one light, East -West + 50.

At the other table, West doubled 4♥ and led the ♣A, followed by the ♣Q, ruffed. South won and played the ♥10 (not best!). West could still have defeated 4♥ by taking ♥K, ♥A and playing a third heart, but played low on the ♥10. Now South realized the error at trick 3 and promptly switched to ◆A and the ◆8, ruffed. After the ♣4 to the ♣J, declarer played the ♥2 and made ten tricks, +590 and +12 Imps. Note that starting with ♥A, ♥K and a third heart should take 4♥ two down. The defence collects 2 hearts, a diamond and 2 clubs.

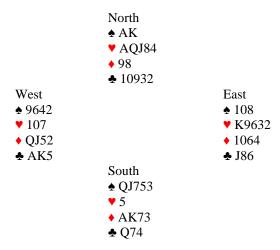
This arose later in the same match:

Dealer East: Both vulnerable



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

West leads the ◆2 (fourth-highest): eight – ten – king. South plays the ▼5: ten – queen – king. What do you do now as East?



At the other table it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦ (fourth suit forcing)
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Wests led the  $\diamond 2$ . East played the  $\diamond 10$  and South won. Both Souths took the heart finesse, losing to the king. When East returned the  $\diamond 6$ , South played the  $\diamond 3$  and West won with the jack. West switched to the  $\lor 10$ . South was cut off from the  $\diamond K$  and the spade suit. Declarer cashed  $\diamond A$ ,  $\diamond K$  and played the  $\diamond 10$ : jack – queen – king. West cashed the  $\diamond A$  and exited with the  $\diamond 5$  to dummy's  $\diamond 9$ . Declarer cashed the  $\diamond 3$  and exited with the  $\diamond 4$ . That gave the defence five tricks and South was one down,  $\diamond 100$ 

At the other table, after winning with the  $\nabla K$  at trick 2, East switched to the  $\clubsuit 6$ : four – king - two. That would have worked if West had started with  $\clubsuit A$ -K-Q-x, but it worked out badly here. West could have saved the situation by switching to the  $\bullet Q$  or  $\bullet J$ , but elected to play East for Q-J-x-6 (unlikely given South's  $1 \spadesuit$  opening). West cashed the  $\spadesuit A$  and played a third club. South won, unblocked the spades, cashed  $\nabla A$ .  $\nabla J$  and returned to hand to reach the spade winners. South made ten tricks, +630 and +12 Imps.

## **Problems for Tomorrow:**

1. Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West North East South Pass ?

What would you do as East with:

- **★** K742
- **Y** --
- ♦ KQ765
- **♣** J652
- 2. Dealer West: Both vulnerable

North

- **★** K32
- **♥** K86
- ♦ J984
- **♣** QJ6

East

- **♦** QJ107
- **y** 94
- ♦ AK107
- **♣** 1042

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	<b>1</b> ♥ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	2 <b>♣</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) 5+ hearts
- (2) Maximum pass, heart support

West leads the ◆3: four – king – six. What do you play at trick 2?

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

Seniors' behaviour: Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.