

# 151. The tell-tale heart

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) 3+ clubs, seeking help in clubs

What would you lead as West from with:

♠ K982  
♥ A  
♦ 109542  
♣ A106

There is a natural temptation to lead the singleton ♥A, find partner's entry, cross to partner's winner and receive a heart ruff. That will take 4♠ two down, as you expect to make your ♣A and ♠K as well.

There is a sensible approach to defence: Take the contract one down before concerning yourself with two down. In the above plan, you need to find partner's entry. If partner has a winner, then you will defeat 4♠, since you have three tricks in defence. In the meantime, leading the ♥A might set up winners in declarer's hand or in dummy.

A	Q763	J109854	Lead the ace and declarer has two tricks. Left alone, declarer might lead low from dummy to the king and your ace. Now declarer makes only one trick in the suit.
	K2		

More later.

After six Alt-Invitational events (Open Teams with eight teams in each event) and two Alt-Mixed (eight teams in each event,) bid72 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online), organized another on-line bridge event, The Major Alt with 36 teams. After ten 14-board rounds, Swiss style, the leading eight teams played 28-board quarter-finals, followed by 28-board semi-finals and a 32-board final.

In the first quarter-final, **GOLDBERG** (Connie Goldberg – Hua Poon, Vesa Fagerlund – Kauko Koistinen, Arttu Karhulahti – Clas Nyberg, USA, #1 qualifier with 134.86 Victory Points) defeated **SELIGMAN** (Martin Seligman – Seppo Sauvola, Dennis Clerkin – Jerry Clerkin, Mark Lair – Mike Passell, #6 qualifier, 117.33 VP) by 105.1-41.

This was yesterday's first question:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) 3+ clubs, seeking help in clubs

What would you do as North with:

♠ 754  
♥ 96  
♦ AKQ8  
♣ 8743

If partner is seeking help in clubs, your 8-7-4-3 is not the stuff dreams are made of. You could reasonably sign off in 3♣. Some Norths took the view that the hand was maximum for a raise to 2♣ and – so what if I have no help for partner in clubs – they jumped straight to 4♣. The bid I like, if partner will understand it, is 3♦, intended to mean, 'I cannot help you in clubs, but I am maximum with strong diamonds. Do with that what you will.' The downside of 3♦ is that a diamond lead might have been helpful and the 3♦ bid will probably dissuade West from a diamond lead. If you reject 3♦ as a choice, then 3♣ would be appropriate.

Board 3: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 754	
	♥ 96	
	♦ AKQ8	
	♣ 8743	
West		East
♠ K982		♠ --
♥ A		♥ QJ87432
♦ 109542		♦ 763
♣ A106		♣ QJ5
	South	
	♠ AQJ1063	
	♥ K105	
	♦ J	
	♣ K92	

With **SELIGMAN** North-South and East-West passing throughout, it went 1♠ : 2♣, 3♣ : 4♣, all pass. West led the ♦2. Declarer ditched the ♣2 and ♣9 on dummy's diamond winners, followed by the ♥9: seven – king – ace. See how good it was not to lead the ♥A. West exited with the ♦9. South ruffed and played the ♥10: ♣6 – ♥6 – ♥J. East returned the ♣Q, king, ace, and South ruffed the next club. When South played the third heart, West ruffed with the ♠8. West made the ♠K later. That was two down, East-West +100.

**GOLBERG** North-South:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass <sup>(1)</sup>
3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Dble	3♥	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Conservative

(2) Not conservative

West would have reaped the rewards for the brave 3♦ balance with a passive diamond lead. Instead West began with the ♥A, followed by a panicky ♣A and the ♦2 exit. After ♦A, then ♦K, pitching a heart, and ♦Q pitching a club, South lost only to the ♠K, ten tricks, North-South +590 and +12 Imps.

Board 3: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 754	
	♥ 96	
	♦ AKQ8	
	♣ 8743	
West		East
♠ K982		♠ --
♥ A		♥ QJ87432
♦ 109542		♦ 763
♣ A106		♣ QJ5
	South	
	♠ AQJ1063	
	♥ K105	
	♦ J	
	♣ K92	

**STREET** North-South -50 after a bashing auction of 1♠ : 2♠, 4♠, all pass. Lead: ♦2.

**LAVAZZA** North-South -50 after a co-operative auction of 1♠ : 2♠, 3♣ (long suit trial) : 3♦ (values in diamonds), 3♠, all pass. Lead: ♦4. No swing.

**NICKELL** North-South -100 after 1♠ : 2♠, 3♣ : 4♠, all pass. Lead: ♦2.

**GUPTA** North-South -50 and +2 Imps after 1♠ : 2♠, 3♠, all pass. Some top players play 3♠ here as non-invitational.

**BIANCHI** North-South -100 after 1♠ : 2♠, 4♠, all pass. Lead: ♦2.

**IRELAND** North-South -50 and +2 Imps after 1♠ : 3♣ (6-9 points + spade support), 4♠, all pass. Lead: ♦10.

This was yesterday's second question:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	?

(1) Weak two in hearts or in spades

(2) Pass or correct

What would you do as South with:

♠ Q  
♥ AQ98643  
♦ AQ64  
♣ K

After an opponent's pre-empt or a weak two, one usually plays partner for two tricks. South has a long, respectable heart suit and a 4-loser hand. If partner can provide two tricks, that should give you a very good chance to make game. The recommended action is a bid of 4♥. You can be very confident that West's suit is spades. Imagine it had started 2♠ : Pass : Pass. A bid of 3♥ would not come close to doing this hand justice.

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 873	
	♥ J10	
	♦ K9	
	♣ QJ7532	
West		East
♠ AJ10954		♠ K62
♥ K7		♥ 52
♦ J832		♦ 1075
♣ 6		♣ A10984
	South	
	♠ Q	
	♥ AQ98643	
	♦ AQ64	
	♣ K	

**SELIGMAN** North-South:

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

(1) Weak two in hearts or in spades

(2) Pass or correct

West led the ♣6. East took the ♣A, switched to the ♠K and then reverted to the ♣9. South ruffed with the ♥9. West over-ruffed and tried the ♠A. South ruffed, cashed the ♥A, crossed to the ♥J and played the ♣Q, discarding the ♦4, 10 tricks, +170.

**GOLDBERG** North-South:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♣6. East took the ♣A, cashed the ♠K and played the ♣10. South ruffed with the ♥9 and West discarded the ♠J. South led a low heart. West rose with the ♥K. South had the rest, 10 tricks, +620, +10 Imps.

**STREET** North-South: 2♠ : Pass : 3♠, 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♣6, 10 tricks, North-South +620.

**LAVAZZA** North-South: 2♦ (multi) : Pass : 2♥ (Pass or correct) : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♠A, ♦2 switch. South won and played the ♠K. East won and returned the ♣9, ruffed with the ♥8, over-ruffed with the ♥K. South made ten tricks. North-South +620, no swing. There is no defence to beat 4♥.

**NICKELL** North-South: 1♠ : Pass : 2♠ : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♣6, won by the ♠A, ♠2 switch, 10 tricks, +620.

**GUPTA** North-South:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3♠	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

There was a time when a weak two opener did not take another bid unless forced to or invited to by partner. West was not an adherent to this philosophy and the double worked like a charm. With little defence, East bid 4♠, all pass. North led the ♥J. West lost a heart and three diamonds, one off, -100 but +11 Imps.

**IRELAND** North-South: 2♠ : Pass : 3♠ : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♦3. South won and played the ♠K next, 10 tricks, North-South +620.

The longest auction on this deal occurred at the other table:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

	North		
	♠ 873		
	♥ J10		
	♦ K9		
	♣ QJ7532		
West		East	
♠ AJ10954		♠ K62	
♥ K7		♥ 52	
♦ J832		♦ 1075	
♣ 6		♣ A10984	
	South		
	♠ Q		
	♥ AQ98643		
	♦ AQ64		
	♣ K		

BIANCHI North-South:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♥
3♠	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♦
Dble	5♥	Dble	All Pass

(1) Some values

West led the ♣6. East took the ♣A, switched to the ♠K and reverted to the ♣9: ♥8 – ♠5 – ♣3. South was planning to make 5♥ doubled if East had the ♥K singleton or doubleton. Given that East had shown up with the ♣A and the ♠K and that West had opened with 1♠, playing East for the ♥K was wildly unlikely. Still, the cost was modest.

At trick 4, South crossed to the ♦K, returned to the ♦A and ruffed the ♦6 with the ♥10. Then came the ♥J: two – three – king. West returned the fourth diamond. East ruffed and South was two down, North-South –500 and –15 Imps. Had South ruffed the third diamond and then played ♥A and a second heart, the result would have been one down, –200 and –13 Imps.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	?		1NT <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) 14-16

(2) Single-suited in a major or a strong 5-5, major + minor

What would you do as North with:

♠ 109  
♥ Q43  
♦ Q87  
♣ KQ732

2. Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	1♠	Dble <sup>(2)</sup>	?

(1) Strong 1♣. 16+ points

(2) 8+ points, game-force

What would you do as South with:

♠ 9653  
♥ J7  
♦ 98  
♣ A9532

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

*Don't worry about others. Some people are their own punishment in life.*