# 158. Bad, bad, bad

# By Ron Klinger

Dealer East: Nil vulnerable

(a)

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
2 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Weak,	6+ spades, 0-7	points	

What would you lead as West from:

- **★** K106532
- **♥** K75
- **♦** 7
- **♣** 854

Make up your mind for that question before moving on to the next one:

(b)

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
2 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Weak,	6+ spades, 0-7	points	

What would you do lead as West this time?

Make up your mind for that question before moving on to the third question:

(c)

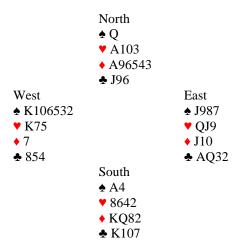
West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
<b>2</b> ♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	4♠	5♦
?			

(1) Weak, 6+ spades, 0-7points

What would you do now as West in this auction?

This deal comes from the 2017 Spingold (USA Knock-Out Open Teams). It arose in the first session of the Round of 16 match between the MITTELMAN and NICKELL:

Dealer East: Nil vulnerable



The problems on page 1 arose when the deal was replayed in a session on BBO.

(a)			
West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
2 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Weak,	6+ spades, 0-7	points	

## What would you lead as West?

Auction (a) did not occur. If it had, West has no clear-cut lead. A low spade gives South the ninth trick at once with the  $\Phi Q$  and declarer can make ten tricks easily enough and eleven with some daring. If West leads a heart, South needs to take the  $\Psi A$  and play a club at trick 2 or cash the diamonds first and then play a club for nine tricks. If West leads a club, East can take the  $\Phi A$  and switch to a spade, but South takes the  $\Phi A$  and has nine tricks or ten if prepared to finesse against East's  $\Phi Q$ .

(b)			
West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
2 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Weak,	6+ spades, 0-7	points	

# What would you lead now as West?

Auction (b) did not occur. If it had, West would lead a spade. To beat 3NT, West must lead  $\Delta K$ . That is unlikely to cost. If East has  $\Delta Q$ -x-x and South  $\Delta A$ -x-x, South would duck spades twice whether West led  $\Delta K$  or a low spade. If South has  $\Delta A$ -Q or dummy has  $\Delta Q$ -x and South  $\Delta A$ -x, it makes no difference which spade you lead.

This was yesterday's first problem:

Dealer East: Nil vulnerable

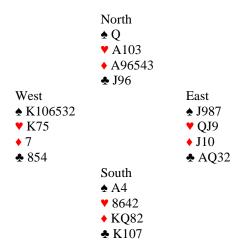
West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
2 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	?	
(1) Weak,	6+ spades, 0-7	points	

What would you do now as East with:

- ♣ J987♥ QJ9♦ J10
- **♣** AQ32

A raise to 3♠ is reasonable. It cuts out a 3♥ bid and indicates a lead against 3NT. East actually bid 4♠.

#### Dealer East: Nil vulnerable



## That brings us to:

(c)

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
<b>2</b> ♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦	4♠	5♦
?			

(1) Weak, 6+ spades, 0-7points

What should West do now?

Answer: West should pass. East's bold/foolhardy 4♠ bid has pushed North-South into 5♠. It is usually unwise to bid 5-over-5 if you are not the stronger side. You can consider 1♠: Pass: 2♠, a weak jump-shift, as a preemptive bid and a pre-emptor is expected not to bid again unless forced to or invited to by partner.

South had erred by bidding 5♦. South should have doubled 4♠. Had West passed 5♦, any lead by East will allow the defence to come to two hearts and a club. However, West bid 5♠: Pass: Pass: Double, all pass.

North led A: ten – two (discouraging) – seven and switched to J, taken by A. Declarer played the 7: four . . two . . . queen. West thus lost 2 spades, a heart, a diamond and 2 clubs, four down, –800. West could have saved a trick by rising with K, but that would have looked silly if North had A bare and South had A0-4 or if South had A0-4. No, the real damage was the A1 bid and going –800 when you would be +100 defending A5.

Incidentally, note that West has 8 losers and East has 8 losers. 8 + 8 = 16 and 24 - 16 = 8 tricks expected for East-West if spades are trumps.

# In the Spingold:

West Rodwell	North Del'Monte	East <i>Meckstroth</i> 1◆	South  Bercuson  Pass	East led the ◆10. Declarer lost the expected two hearts and one club, North-South +130
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦ End	
West	North	East	South	North led the ♣6. Declarer took the ♣A and
Zatorski	Katz,	Pachtmann	Nickell	played ♠7-four-king-queen. The result was two
		Pass	1♦	down, North-South +100 but 1 Imp to
1♠	2 <b>♠</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	$2NT^{(2)}$	Pass	MITTELMAN.
<b>3♥</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	<b>4</b>	4♠	All Pass	

- (1) Limit raise or stronger for diamonds
- (2) Strong spade raise (3) Long-suit trial bid

## Dealer North: Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	?

What would you do as East with:

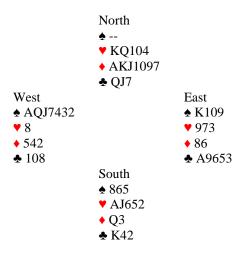
- **★** K109
- **973**
- **♦** 86
- ♣ A9653

This comment appeared on page 1 of Daily Column 104: The Perils Of Pre-empts: 'Unless you can defeat a slam that the opponent might reach, there seems little benefit in raising a pre-empt with a modest balanced hand. It simply helps the opponents judge their fit.'

If you adhere to that suggestion you would pass 4♥. You have one trick with the ♣A. Your side may or may not have a spade trick. Partner has not promised you a defensive trick outside spades.

East ought to pass, but that did not happen. East bid 4♠, South 5♥ and North 6♥, all pass. This was the deal:

## Dealer North: Nil vulnerable



As you can see, 6♥ is unbeatable, North-South +980. North's 6♥ was not free of risk. West might have had a singleton club and ♣A and club ruff would have beaten 6♥. As South might have much less for the 1♥ response, North could not do more than 4♥ over 3♠. When South could bid 5♥, North placed South with good values.

This was yesterday's second problem:

## Dealer North: Nil vulnerable

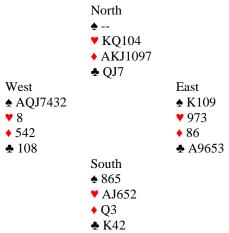
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

- **★** 865
- ♥ AJ652
- **♦ O**3
- ♣ K42

I am betting that in this auction, South would have passed 4♥ and West's 3♠ would have done its job.

Dealer North: Nil vulnerable



(Directions changed for convenience)

# In the Spingold:

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bercuson	Rodwell	<b>Del'Monte</b>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the  $\Delta$ A, ruffed. Declarer played  $\nabla$ K,  $\nabla$ 10 to the  $\nabla$ J, ruffed another spade, crossed to the  $\Delta$ Q, drew the last trump and had 13 tricks, +510.

West	North	East	South
Pachtmann	Nickell	Zatorski	Katz
	1♦	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	5 <b>♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	5 <b>\( \big(2) \)</b>	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

- (1) Cue-bid, control in clubs and effectively a slam try
- (2) Cue-bid, control in diamonds

West led the ♠A. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps, 12 tricks +980, +10 Imps.

With Eric Rodwell and Piotr Zatorski both bidding 4♠ over 4♥, I may have to eat my words and retract my comments at the top of the previous page about the undesirability of that 4♠ bid. No, I won't. I still think that in the long run 4♠ with one defensive trick is a losing proposition and is more likely to help the opponents than your side.

# **Problems for Tomorrow:**

1. Dealer East: Nil vulnerable

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

What would you do now as South with:

- **♠** AK
- **♥** AKJ743
- **♦** 6
- ♣ Q965
- 2. Dealer South: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			2NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	9		

Pass ?

What would you do as North with:

- **▲** J632
- **♥** Q87
- **♦** J6
- **♣** 9873

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

Becoming vegan would be a big missed steak.