## 231. The leader board

## By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable

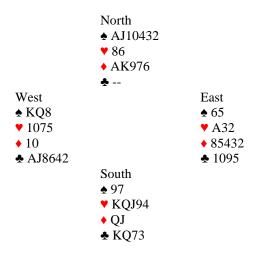
West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♣	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What would you lead as West from:

- ♠ KQ8
- **v** 1075
- **•** 10
- ♣ AJ8642

This deal arose in Round of 16 in the 2017 Spingold (USA Knock-out Open Teams) in the FIREMAN vs PIEDRA match:

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable



This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable

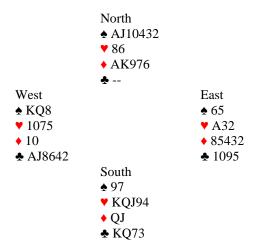
West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♣	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	?		

What would you do with the North hand?

When you bid 3♦, you showed 5+ spades and 4+ diamonds. Your hand is much freakier than that and most of the time it will be best to rebid 4♦ and ask partner to choose one of your suits. That is what one North did in the Spingold. South bid 4♠, all pass.

East led a club, king, ace, ruffed. North played  $\Delta A$  and the  $\Delta 3$ . Declarer lost 2 spades and a heart, but had ten tricks for  $\pm 420$ .

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable



At the other table, this was the recorded auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♣	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	<b>3♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Askin	g for a sto	pper in	clubs

There must be more to this auction than I comprehend – how can North not show the spades? Or did 2 show spades? Or has the auction been mis-recorded? However, the contract was 3NT. West made the natural lead of a low club, the 46: 2 - 9 – K. Hoping the A was with West, South played the A. However, East had the A, captured the A and returned the A10. South thus lost five clubs and the A4, two down, East-West +100 and +11 Imps.

In today's problem on the previous page, the normal lead for West is a low club. West has 10 HCP and with the opponents in 3NT, you expect partner to have only 4-5 points most of the time. It is very optimistic to expect partner to have an entry plus a holding like Q-10-x in clubs to lead through declarer. On a club lead, East's actual holding is enough to beat 3NT. The ♣10 doubleton with East could be enough if South had ♣K-Q-x. On any lead but a club, declarer has no trouble making 3NT.

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

Dealer West: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	<b>2</b> ♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	9		

What would you do as North with:

- **★** KJ7652
- ♥ AQJ85
- **•** --
- **♣** A7

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

Grammar humour: A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun and suggests they conjugate. The noun declines.