

239. Charge of the light brigade

By Ron Klinger

With neither side vulnerable, East deals and passes. What would you as South with:

♠ AJ9876
♥ A86
♦ 94
♣ 73

This looks like a textbook weak 2♠ (or a multi 2♦ opening), but you never know what experts might do, right?

Today's deal arose in the semi-finals of the 2015 World Teams. Did you think the 1♦ opening by various Souths on yesterday's deal was a little light? If so, you will view the 1♠ openings on Board 46 in the same vein.

Board 46: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 52	
	♥ 52	
	♦ AKQ865	
	♣ Q109	
West		East
♠ Q3		♠ K104
♥ KJ10943		♥ Q7
♦ 7		♦ J1032
♣ A862		♣ KJ54
	South	
	♠ AJ9876	
	♥ A86	
	♦ 94	
	♣ 73	

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>W'dridge</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

To some, the South hand might look like a regulation weak two. Perhaps the heart holding persuaded both Souths to choose 1♠. Sweden's Fredrik Nystrom (S) won the ♦7 lead with the ace and played the ♠2 to the nine and queen. He won West's ♥10 switch and cashed the ♠A. He pitched a club on the third diamond winner and lost two spades, two hearts and a club, two off, East-West +100.

USA2's Gavin Wolpert ducked the heart lead, won the second heart and played ♦A, ♦K. West ruffed and cashed the ♣A before playing a third heart, ruffed with the ♠5 and over-ruffed. Frederic Wrang (E) could have cashed the ♣K, but he played the ♦10 instead. South pitched the ♣7 and West ruffed. The club return was ruffed by South, who played the ♠A. He lost six tricks, East-West +150, 2 Imps to Sweden. Both Souths could take comfort from the fact that East-West could make 4♥, not that this was going to be reached in either auction, and 3♠ would have won the contract.

Board 46: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

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♠ 52	
♥ 52	
♦ AKQ865	
♣ Q109	
West	East
♠ Q3	♠ K104
♥ KJ10943	♥ Q7
♦ 7	♦ J1032
♣ A862	♣ KJ54
South	
♠ AJ9876	
♥ A86	
♦ 94	
♣ 73	

In the other semi-final:
Poland North-South:

West <i>Forrester</i>	North <i>Kalita</i>	East <i>Robson</i>	South <i>No'sadzki</i>	East led the ♥Q, taken by the ace. Declarer played the ♠6, won by the ♠10. East returned the ♠4. South took the ♠A and played ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q, discarding the ♥6. Declarer lost two spades, a heart and two clubs, East-West +50.
2♥	2♠	Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	
3♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♠	
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Weak two in hearts or in spades

West <i>Klukowski</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Gawrys</i>	South <i>Bakhshi</i>	David Bakhshi took a huge position when he doubled 3NT and he came up smelling of roses. The odour might have been different if either West or East had run to 4♥, but then, real men don't run. He led the ♦9 to the queen and David Gold switched to the ♠5: ten – jack – queen.
1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass	
3♥	Pass	Dble ⁽¹⁾	2♠	
Pass	Pass	3NT	Dble	
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Does not promise 4 spades

Piotr Gawrys took four club tricks, finessing en route, and then played the ♥K. That was the end of the ball game. South took the ace and played the ♦4. North took the ♦K, ♦A, followed by the ♠2 and South claimed the rest, down four, North-South +800, 13 Imps to England.

Women's Teams: Poland North-South: Pass : 1♠ : 2♥ : 3♦, 3NT : Pass : Pass : Double, all pass. Lead: ♦9. North played ♦Q, ♦K and ♣9, won by the king. Declarer was two down, North-South +300. England North-South: Pass : 2♠ : 3♥ : 3♠ : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♦K. Ten tricks, East-West +420, 12 Imps to England.

USA2 North-South: Pass : 2♦ (multi, weak two in hearts or in spades) : 2♥ : Double (Pass with hearts, bid 2♠ with spades) : Pass : 2♠, all pass. Lead: ♦7. South was one off, East-West +50. Netherlands North-South: Pass : 2♦ (same multi) : 3♥ : Pass : 3NT, Pass : 4♥, all pass. Lead: ♦A. Ten tricks, East-West +420, 9 Imps to USA2.

Note the three 1♠ openings in the matches below:

Seniors' Teams: Poland North-South: Pass : 1♠ : 2♥ : 3♦, Pass : 3♠ : Pass : 4♠, all pass. Lead: ♦7, eight tricks, two light, East-West +100. Sweden North-South: Pass : 1♠ : 2♥ : 3♦, Double (takeout) : 3♠, all pass. Lead: ♦7. Six tricks, East-West +150, 2 Imps to Poland.

USA2 North-South: Pass : 1♠ : 2♥ : 3♦, Pass : 3♠ : Pass : 4♠, all pass. Lead: ♦7. Six tricks, four light, –200. With USA 1 North-South, Zia Mahmood (S) opened 2♠ – a man after my own heart – all pass. West led the ♦7. South took the ♦A and played ♠A and the ♠6, taken by the ♠Q. West switched to the ♣A, followed by the ♣2: ten – jack – seven. Then came the ♥7: ace – three – two. South played ♦K, ♦Q and made 4 spades, the ♥A and 3 diamonds, eight tricks, +110 and +7 Imps to USA1.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
4♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	5♣
5♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♦	7♥	Pass	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 0-1 heart, 4+ diamonds

(2) Void in hearts

What would you lead as North from:

♠ 85

♥ Q76432

♦ Q76

♣ 107

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

Our mountains aren't just funny. They are hill areas.