## 239. Charge of the light brigade

## By Ron Klinger

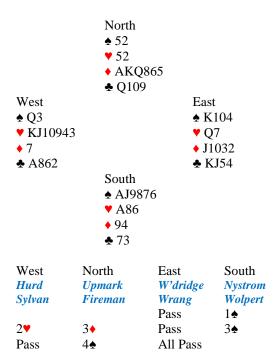
With neither side vulnerable, East deals and passes. What would you as South with:

- **♦** 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.

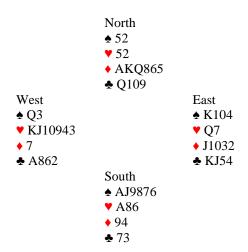
Board 46: Dealer East: Nil vulnerable



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



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

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Kalita	Robson	No'sadzki
		Pass	<b>2</b> ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>
2♥	2♠	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Wools to	vo in boorts	or in anadas	

East led the  $\checkmark$ Q, taken by the ace. Declarer played the  $\spadesuit$ 6, won by the  $\spadesuit$ 10. East returned the  $\spadesuit$ 4. South took the  $\spadesuit$ A and played  $\spadesuit$ A,  $\spadesuit$ K,  $\spadesuit$ Q, discarding the  $\checkmark$ 6. Declarer lost two spades, a heart and two clubs, East-West +50.

(1) Weak two in hearts or in spades

West Klukowski	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Gawrys</i>	South <i>Bakhshi</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	2♠
3♥	Pass	3NT	Dble
Pacc	Pacc	Pacc	

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 49 to the queen and David Gold switched to the 45: ten – jack – queen.

(1) Does not promise 4 spades

Piotr Gawrys took four club tricks, finessing en route, and then played the  $\checkmark$ K. That was the end of the ball game. South took the ace and played the  $\checkmark$ 4. North took the  $\checkmark$ K,  $\checkmark$ A, followed by the  $\checkmark$ 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.

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
<b>4♥</b> (1)	Pass	4♠	5♣
<b>5</b> ♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	6♦	Pass
<b>7</b> ♦	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.