

240. Swing time

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	East
♠ KQJ1072	♠ A6
♥ --	♥ J8
♦ K953	♦ AJ10842
♣ AQ9	♣ 642

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	3♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♠ ⁽²⁾
4♦	5♥	Dble	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 6+ diamonds, game-invitational

(2) Hearts + clubs, at least 5-5

South leads the ♣5. Plan the play. Make up your mind before reading further. (*Answer later.*)

This was yesterday's problem:

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

The deal arose in Round 10 of the qualifying rounds for the 2017 World Teams.

Board 32: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 85	
	♥ Q76432	
	♦ Q76	
	♣ 107	
West		East
♠ KQJ1072		♠ A6
♥ --		♥ J8
♦ K953		♦ AJ10842
♣ AQ9		♣ 642
	South	
	♠ 943	
	♥ AK1095	
	♦ --	
	♣ KJ853	

The auction above occurred in the Seniors' match, with Canada East-West and China North-South. South's 'Lightner' double asks for the first suit bid by dummy, diamonds. If South has a sure trick regardless of the lead, it will not matter if you lead a diamond. If partner specifically wants a diamond lead you had better obey. North did lead a diamond. South ruffed, one down. China +400.

Board 32: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 85	
	♥ Q76432	
	♦ Q76	
	♣ 107	
West		East
♠ KQJ1072		♠ A6
♥ --		♥ J8
♦ K953		♦ AJ10842
♣ AQ9		♣ 642
	South	
	♠ 943	
	♥ AK1095	
	♦ --	
	♣ KJ853	

China East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	2♥	3♦	4♥
5♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♣ ⁽³⁾	6♥
7♦	Pass	Pass	7♥
7♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial, 16+ HCP

(2) Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood

(3) 2 key cards outside hearts

North led a diamond. South ruffed. North-South +200, but 5 Imps to China.

In the 2017 World Championship Book, John Carruthers (Canada) reported that there was a swing in every Seniors' match, the lowest being 5 Imps and the highest 15 Imps. In eight matches, East-West bought the contract: 4♠ x 1, 5♠ x 2, 6♠ x 1, 7♠ twice (once doubled and once redoubled, as on page 1) and 6♦ x 2. One North-South pair played in 5♥ undoubled and 12 were doubled, 5♥ x 4, 6♥ x 6 and 7♥ x 2.

Venice Cup (women's Teams): Three matches were flat, two in 5♥ doubled -300 and one in 4♠ +710 / 5♠ +710. There was one 9-Imp swing (5♠ +710 vs 5♥ doubled -300), two 14-Imp swings (6♦ +1370 vs 5♥ doubled -300 and 4♠ +710 vs 7♠ doubled -200) and one 16-Imp swing (7♦ +2140 vs 5♠ +710).

Venice Cup, China East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

France East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

Note: What a price the 2-over-1 game-force system pays when diamonds were never mentioned at either table. A standard 1♠ : Pass : 2♦ responses should find East-West in a small slam at least. At both tables, the ♠A was led. Both North were two down, East-West +300, no swing.

Board 32: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 85	
	♥ Q76432	
	♦ Q76	
	♣ 107	
West		East
♠ KQJ1072		♠ A6
♥ --		♥ J8
♦ K953		♦ AJ10842
♣ AQ9		♣ 642
	South	
	♠ 943	
	♥ AK1095	
	♦ --	
	♣ KJ853	

Venice Cup, England East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
3♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

Lead: ♣10. Thirteen tricks, East-West +710.

Netherlands East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	3♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♥
6♠	7♥	7♠	Dble ⁽²⁾
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 6+ diamonds, inviting game

(2) Asking for a diamond lead

North led the ♦6. South ruffed. One down, North-South +200, 14 Imps to England.

Bermuda Bowl (Open Teams) results: There was one flat match (5♥ doubled -300) and five double-figure swings: 11 Imps (6♦ +1390 vs 7♥ doubled -800), 12 Imps x 2 (7♦ 2140 vs 6♠ 1460 and 7♠ doubled 2470 vs 6♣ doubled 1860), 13 Imps (6♦ +1390 vs 6♥ doubled -500) and 15 Imps (6♣ 1430 vs 5♥ doubled -300).

Bermuda Bowl, France East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	3♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♠ ⁽²⁾
6♦	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 6+ diamonds, inviting game

(2) Hearts + clubs, at least 5-5

What might West have done here over 3♠ (and in similar auctions where East had shown diamonds)? A bid of 5♥, Exclusion Key Card Blackwood, might have taken East-West to 7♦ and North-South to 7♥ doubled. Declarer was three down East-West +500.

USA1 East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
4♠	5♥	5♠	All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

Lead: ♥7. Thirteen tricks, +710, 5 Imps to USA1. The same result occurred in Bulgaria vs USA2. Bulgaria collected 500 from 6♥ doubled, while USA2 played 5♠ for +710 and +5 Imps.

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	North	
	♠ 85	
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	♦ Q76	
	♣ 107	
West		East
♠ KQJ1072		♠ A6
♥ --		♥ J8
♦ K953		♦ AJ10842
♣ AQ9		♣ 642
	South	
	♠ 943	
	♥ AK1095	
	♦ --	
	♣ KJ853	

Australia East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
4♠	5♥	Dble	All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

China East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
Dble	4♥	4♠	5♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

Both Easts led the ♠A, both Norths were two down, no swing.

Egypt East-West:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	5♥	5♠	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) With only 4 losers, it looks like a 4♠ rebid to me.

North led ♥4. West made all the tricks, +1860. The euphoria for this result would have dissipated at score-up.

Germany East-West:

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

(1) 4+ diamonds, 0-1 heart

Lead: ♠7. Thirteen tricks, +2470, 12 Imps to Germany. South's double should be taken as Lightner, asking for a diamond lead.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♣ ⁽¹⁾
4♠	Pass	6♣	6♦
6♠	Pass	7♣	?

(1) Splinter, 4 hearts, 0-1 club, strong hand

What would you do as South with:

♠ --
♥ AQ62
♦ AQJ108765
♣ J

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

Irony: What you need to do with wrinkly.