245. Bridge for tailors: Suit combination II

By Ron Klinger

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

West North East South Pass $1 \checkmark$ Pass $4 \clubsuit^{(1)}$ Pass ?

(1) Splinter, 11+ HCP, 4+ hearts, 0-1 club

What would you do as South with:

▲ KQ52
 ♥ AQ976
 ◆ - ◆ AKQ4

(Answer later)

How would you play this trump suit? You have plenty of entries.

North (dummy) J852 South (you) AQ976

Should you play low and finesse the queen or should you lead the jack from dummy? Either play works if the layout is like this:

	North		Or		North	
	J852				J852	
West		East		West		East
103		K4		10		K43
	South				South	
	AQ976				AQ976	

In the second case, after low to the queen drops the ten, you return to dummy in another suit and play from dummy again, jack or low.

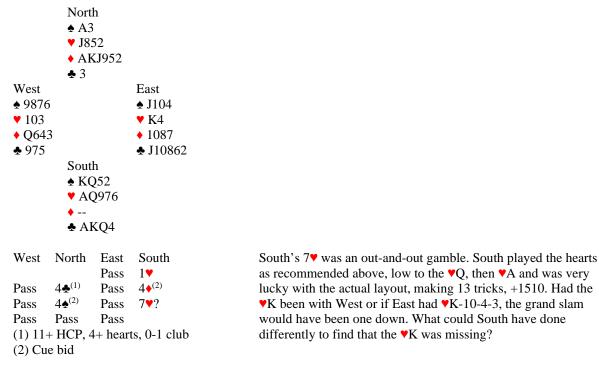
Playing low from North is better because it also caters for this position:

	North	
	J852	
West		East
1043		Κ
	South	
	AQ976	

After two, king, ace, the jack and the queen mop up West's holding. Lead the jack, king, ace and you lose a trick to West's ten.

This deal arose in the 2019 Vanderbilt (USA Knock-Out Open Teams) Round of 32 match between FLEISHER and PAVLICK.

Bd, 51: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable



After North's 4 splinter, a good choice for South would be 5, asking for key cards outside diamonds. After a trump suit has been agreed (as 4 above agreed hearts), a jump in a new suit beyond game in the agreed suit is played as Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood. It shows a void in that suit and asks for key cards outside that suit.

Bidding and making $7 \checkmark$ for 1510 was a huge swing. At the other table, a world-champion pair had a system stuff-up and ended in $7 \blacklozenge$, one down, -100 and 17 Imps away.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

North	East	South
	Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♣
2♠	Pass	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	
	1NT 2♠ 3♠	Pass1NTPass2♠Pass3♠Pass

What would you lead as West from:

▲ A876
♥ J6
◆ AJ943
◆ 73

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

Today I saw a dwarf climbing down the outside of a prison wall. I thought to myself, 'That's a little condescending'.