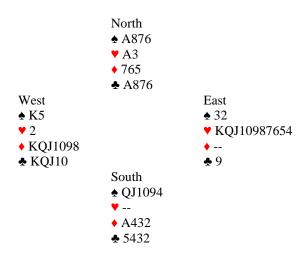
2. Playing Double Dummy

By Ron Klinger

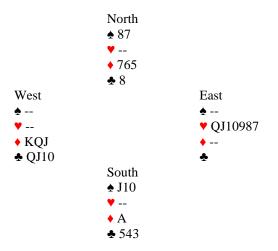
Here is yesterday's double dummy problem:



North opened 1♣, East bid 4♥, South 4♠, West doubled, all pass. West leads the ♣K. Seeing all four hands, how can you make 4♠?

After taking the ♣A, you have three club losers plus two diamond losers. You can cash the ♥A to pitch one loser, ruff the ♥3 and take the spade finesse, but that still leaves you with four losers.

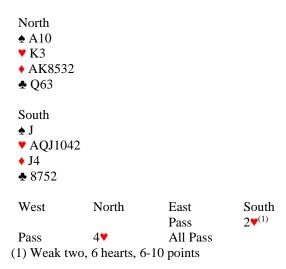
Solution: Take the ♣A and play the ♥A(!), ruffing in hand with ♠9 (or higher). Then play ♠Q. If West ducks, the ♠Q wins and you continue with a spade to the ace. If West covers the ♠Q with ♠K, take ♠A and play any spade from dummy and ♠4 from hand. You now exit with the ♥3 from dummy. With only hearts left, East wins and South discards a diamond. At trick 6, East continues with a heart and you discard a diamond from hand and a club from dummy. The same happens on trick 7. South has lost three tricks and this is position:



When East plays a heart, South ruffs and discards ♣8 from dummy. What does West do? If West throws a club, you ruff a club, come to ♠A, ruff a club and your hand is high. If West throws a diamond, ♠A, club ruff, diamond ruff and dummy is high.

That problem came from *Polish Bridge* magazine. So does the next one. Both were spotted by Wally Malaczynski of Sydney.

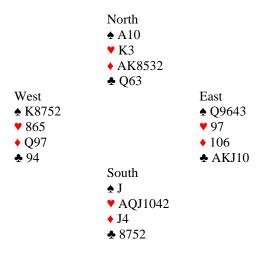
East dealer: Both vulnerable



West leads the ♣9: three – ten – five. East switches to the ♠3: jack – king – ace. How would you plan the play?

You can count 1 spade trick, 6 hearts and 2 diamonds, total 9 tricks. Your best chance is a club ruff in dummy. You play the ♣6 from dummy. East wins with the ♣K and West plays the ♣4. Now if East plays a spade, you can ruff, play a third club and ruff your fourth club in dummy.

Uh-uh. East is awake to your plan. After winning trick 3 with the ♣J, East switches to the ♥7. What do you do about that?



From the early play, you can place West with \$9-4 doubleton and East with \$A-K-J-10. West's \$K\$ at trick 2 indicates that East has the \$Q\$. That gives East 10 HCP and so the \$Q\$ should be with West. Win the \$7\$ switch with dummy's \$K\$ and draw trumps. Then play the \$J\$. If West plays low, let the \$J\$ run. It wins and you make the rest of the tricks. If West covers the \$J\$, duck in dummy. You lose only two clubs and one diamond. You would play the same way even if East is not a passed hand.

Play bridge by trial and error and what you end up with is mostly error.