

2. Playing Double Dummy

By Ron Klinger

Here is yesterday's double dummy problem:

	North	
	♠ A876	
	♥ A3	
	♦ 765	
	♣ A876	
West		East
♠ K5		♠ 32
♥ 2		♥ KQJ10987654
♦ KQJ1098		♦ --
♣ KQJ10		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ QJ1094	
	♥ --	
	♦ A432	
	♣ 5432	

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:

	North	
	♠ 87	
	♥ --	
	♦ 765	
	♣ 8	
West		East
♠ --		♠ --
♥ --		♥ QJ10987
♦ KQJ		♦ --
♣ QJ10		♣
	South	
	♠ J10	
	♥ --	
	♦ A	
	♣ 543	

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

North
♠ A10
♥ K3
♦ AK8532
♣ Q63

South
♠ J
♥ AQJ1042
♦ J4
♣ 8752

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

(1) Weak two, 6 hearts, 6-10 points

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?

	North	
	♠ A10	
	♥ K3	
	♦ AK8532	
	♣ Q63	
West		East
♠ K8752		♠ Q9643
♥ 865		♥ 97
♦ Q97		♦ 106
♣ 94		♣ AKJ10
	South	
	♠ J	
	♥ AQJ1042	
	♦ J4	
	♣ 8752	

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.