8. An Invalid Inference

By Ron Klinger

North dealer : Both vulnerable

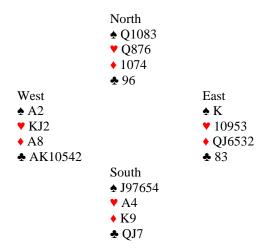
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	3 ♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	?
(1) 4+ space	des, 0-5 points		

What would you do as South with:

▲ J97654
♥ A4
♦ K9
▲ QJ7

Today's deals arose in teams' matches played on BBO.

North dealer : Nil vulnerable



At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
(1) For tak	eout		

East's double usually shows the minors – with hearts, bid hearts – but East was intending to remove $3 \div$ to $3 \bullet$ to offer partner the choice of diamonds or hearts. West thought that East had clubs, which would give West six easy tricks there and so West bid 3NT.

North led the \bigstar 8, king. Declarer played the \blacklozenge Q: nine – eight – seven, followed by the \bigstar 3: seven – ten – six. There were six club tricks there after all. West finished with 11 tricks, +660.

South assumed that East-West had a fit in hearts. That was not sure. West's takeout double and $4 \pm$ showed a strong hand with clubs. It did not necessarily promise hearts as well. While $4 \forall$ can be made, there is no certainty that it would be made in practice. Even if $4 \forall$ did make, the cost in $4 \pm$ doubled was excessive.

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	5♦	?
(1) Weak j	ump-overcall		
(2) Takeou	it, 4+ hearts		

What would you do as South with:

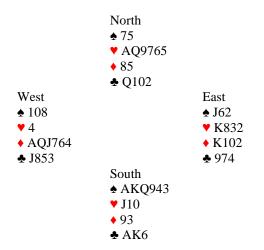
♠ AKQ943

V J10

♦93

♣ AK6

East dealer : North-South vulnerable



At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	4♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Weak j	ump-overcall		
(2) Takeou	it, 4+ hearts		

Declarer lost two diamonds and a heart, but had ten tricks, +620.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	5♦	5NT ⁽³⁾
Pass	67	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Weak j	ump-overcall		
(2) Takeou	it, 4+ hearts		
(3) Pick a	slam.		

Declarer lost the same tricks, -200 and -13 Imps. South assumed from the East-West bidding that North would be short in diamonds, perhaps a void. Reality was otherwise. Note that even 5 or 5 fails. To win the board, South needed to double 5. The defence can collect two spades, a heart and three clubs for four down, +800 and +5 Imps.

Footnote: North's 6 showed a long suit. To give South a choice between hearts and spades, North would have bid 6.

Bridge Bulletin Editor Paul Was crying way out in the hall. Poems came in, Ten thousand and ten. The doggerel pile was too tall. (ACBL Bulletin, March 2020)