

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+ spades, 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

	North	
	♠ Q1083	
	♥ Q876	
	♦ 1074	
	♣ 96	
West		East
♠ A2		♠ K
♥ KJ2		♥ 10953
♦ A8		♦ QJ6532
♣ AK10542		♣ 83
	South	
	♠ J97654	
	♥ A4	
	♦ K9	
	♣ QJ7	

At one table it went:

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

(1) For takeout

East's double usually shows the minors – with hearts, bid hearts – but East was intending to remove 3♣ to 3♦ 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 ♠8, king. Declarer played the ♦Q: nine – eight – seven, followed by the ♣3: seven – ten – six. There were six club tricks there after all. West finished with 11 tricks, +660.

At the other table, after the auction at the start of today's column, South bid 4♠. West doubled, all pass. West led the ♣K, ♣A, ♣2: ♠8 – ♠Q – ♠K, followed by ♦Q, king, ace, and the ♦8: ten – jack – nine, East switched to the ♥5, four, king. The defence still had the ♠A to come, East-West +1100 and +10 Imps.

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

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	5♦	?

(1) Weak jump-overcall

(2) Takeout, 4+ hearts

What would you do as South with:

♠ AKQ943

♥ J10

♦ 93

♣ AK6

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
♠ 108	♠ 75	♠ J62	♠ AKQ943
♥ 4	♥ AQ9765	♥ K832	♥ J10
♦ AQJ764	♦ 85	♦ K102	♦ 93
♣ J853	♣ Q102	♣ 974	♣ AK6

At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble ⁽²⁾	4♦	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Weak jump-overcall

(2) Takeout, 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	6♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Weak jump-overcall

(2) Takeout, 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.
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