

20. Bottoms From the Tops

By Ron Klinger

1. West dealer : Both vulnerable

Italy North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Jais</i>	<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Tresel</i>	<i>Siniscalco</i>
1♥	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♠	Dble	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A9
♥ 854
♦ A2
♣ AKQJ103

2. North dealer : Both vulnerable

France North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Alvaren</i>	<i>Bacherich</i>	<i>Amorol</i>	<i>Deruy</i>
2♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
7♠	7♥	Pass	Pass
	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠
♥ KJ
♦ AKQJ1098
♣ AQ32

It is an inescapable fact of bridge that we all make mistakes. Some of the world's great players have committed monumental blunders. If it can happen to them, it can happen to any of us. Today's deals are from major international events.

1956 European Open Teams:

West dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ107643	
	♥ --	
	♦ K87653	
	♣ --	
West		East
♠ --		♠ J852
♥ KQJ732		♥ A1096
♦ QJ10		♦ 94
♣ 8654		♣ 972
	South	
	♠ A9	
	♥ 854	
	♦ A2	
	♣ AKQJ103	

After the auction in problem 1 above (France vs Italy), Italy's South bid 7NT. West doubled, all pass. The defence took six heart tricks, E-W +1700. Had South passed 7♠ doubled, North would probably succeed by finessing the ♠9 (because of East's double), cashing ♠A, ruffing a heart, drawing trumps and ditching diamonds on dummy's clubs.

North's raise of 6♠ to 7♠ was adventurous. What if South had the ♥A and no ♦A? You might think East's double looks silly, as it might tip declarer off to the bad trump break. Still, it did make South run to 7NT.

1961 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams):

North dealer : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ --	
	♥ AQ1098765432	
	♦ --	
	♣ K4	
West		East
♠ KQ106543		♠ AJ9872
♥ --		♥ --
♦ 76		♦ 5432
♣ J1086		♣ 975
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ AKQJ1098	
	♣ AQ32	

Brazil (E-W) vs France (N-S). After the 7♠ bid, North passed the decision to South. Maybe South had ♥K and three aces. After all, South had opened 2♣. When 7♠ came around to South, it was clear that North was asking partner to bid 7NT or double 7♠. South judged that to invite 7NT, North must hold the ♠A. South bid 7NT : Pass : Pass : Double, all pass. The defence took their seven spades, E-W +2000. Had South doubled 7♠, best defence collects three clubs (♣K lead) and two diamonds, N-S +1400. That makes 7♠ a good sacrifice, as 7♥ makes for N-S 2210.

1989 Venice Cup (Women's World Teams):

West dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ --	
	♥ Q1087542	
	♦ A1076	
	♣ 103	
West		East
♠ K9852		♠ AQ107
♥ 6		♥ J
♦ 983		♦ KJ
♣ A862		♣ KQ9754
	South	
	♠ J643	
	♥ AK93	
	♦ Q542	
	♣ J	

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Germany (N-S) vs Netherlands. Result: Six down, E-W +1700. Explanation: 3♥ = pre-empt in hearts OR in clubs; 4♣ = Pass or correct; North's pass over the double (forgetting system) = Long clubs. Note that North can make 11 tricks in 4♥.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer : Both vulnerable

North
 ♠ KJ10
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ Q743
 ♣ 9852

South
 ♠ AQ987
 ♥ AQ1095
 ♦ A8
 ♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial, maximum passed hand

(2) Natural and forcing to game

(3) One key card for spades

West leads the ♣K and continues with the ♣4: five – ace – ♠7. Plan the play for South. How do you avoid losing a diamond if the ♦K does not come down singleton?

2. East dealer : Nil vulnerable

North
 ♠ 864
 ♥ J3
 ♦ 752
 ♣ KJ1064

East
 ♠ AK753
 ♥ 2
 ♦ KQJ4
 ♣ 532

West	North	East	South
		1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♠J: four – king – two. East cashes the ♠A: queen – nine – six. What would you play as East at trick 3?

Why not discuss the problems by phone with your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

Schadenfreude: The delight one takes in another's misfortune. A very common phenomenon among bridge players.