21. To be Continued

By Ron Klinger

West dealer: Both vulnerable

North ♠ KJ10

- **♥** KJ
- Q743
- **♣** 9852

South

- **♠** AQ987
- ♥ AQ1095
- ♦ A8
- **♣** 7

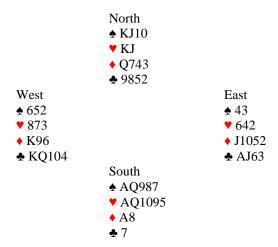
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	$2^{(2)}$
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) Artificial, maximum passed hand
- (2) Natural and forcing to game
- (3) One key card for spades

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

Today's deals come from *Polish Bridge* magazine and were spotted by Wally Malaczynski of Sydney.

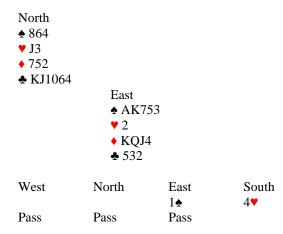
West dealer: Both vulnerable



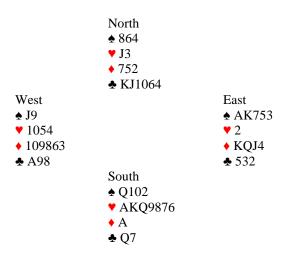
You can see 11 tricks via 5 spades, 5 hearts and the ◆A. To collect the extra trick needed, you will need trumps 3-2 (or, if trumps are 4-1, the wildly unlikely situation that the hand with 4 trumps also has five hearts). At trick 3, play the ◆8 to the ◆10 and ruff a club. Play another spade, win it in dummy and ruff dummy's fourth club. Cross to the ▼K and draw the last trump, discarding the ◆8 from hand. Overtake the ▼J and the remaining cards in your hand are high.

The technical term for this play is a 'dummy reversal'. Because it is usually wrong to take unnecessary ruffs in the longer trump holding, it is easy to overlook a dummy reversal.

East dealer: Nil vulnerable



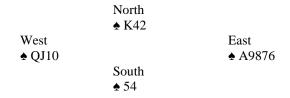
West leads the ΔJ : four – king – two. East cashes the ΔA : queen – nine – six. What would you play as East at trick 3?



The question is, how do you continue from J-10-9 after you lead the jack. The 10 next or the 9? Recommended is jack, then ten. On that basis, jack-then-nine = a doubleton and East should play the \clubsuit 7 at trick 3 as suit-preference for diamonds. West ruffs this and South will be one down. If East switches at trick 3, South will make \clubsuit 7.

The same recommendation applies after you have led the 10 from 10-9-3. The 10 followed by the 9 is consistent with 10-9 doubleton, 10-9-x or 10-9-x or similar. The 10 followed by the 8 or lower = a doubleton.

The same is not true, however, for the Q-J-10 sequence in this situation:



West leads the queen: two - six - four. West should play the 10 next. West is known to have the jack, else South would have played the king at trick 1. If West plays queen-then-jack, it denies the ten.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer: East-West vulnerable

North

- **♦** 973
- **9** 64
- ♦ KQJ1085
- **♣** A2

West

- ♠ AQ2
- ♥ J8752
- **♦** A
- **♣** 9643

South opens 1NT (15-17 points) and North raises to 3NT (better than showing the diamonds), all pass. West leads the ♥5: four – nine – king. South plays the ♦6: ace – five – nine. What would you play as West at trick 3?

2. South dealer: Both vulnerable

North

- **♦** K62
- **♥** A10
- ♦ J84
- ♣ KJ852

West

- **♦** 95
- ♥ Q8643
- **♦** AQ2
- **♣** A9

South opens 3♠ and North bids 4♠, all pass. West leads the ♣A; two – seven – ten. You are playing low encourage. What do you play at trick 2?

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

A bridge playing fellow named Wade Was unhappy with how he had played He was down in the dumps, For though hearts had been trumps, The card he pulled out was a spade. (ACBL Bulletin, March 2020)