31. Show case

By Ron Klinger

East dealer: North-South vulnerable

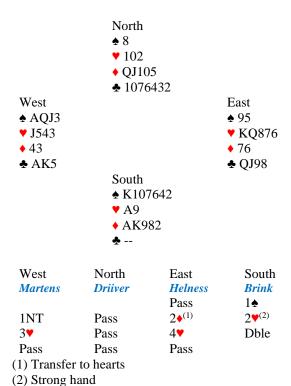
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	?
(1) Transfe	er to hearts		

What would you do as South with:

- **★** K107642
- **♥** A9
- ♦ AK982
- <u>ب</u> --

From the final of the 2019 Spingold (USA Open Knockout Teams) between BLASS and ZIMMERMANN.

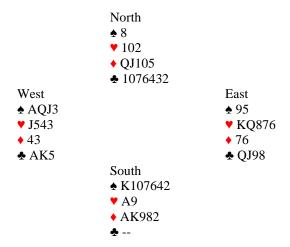
Bd 18: East dealer: North-South vulnerable



North led the $\clubsuit 8$: nine – ten – queen. The $\blacktriangledown J$ went to the ace and South cashed $\bigstar K$, $\bigstar A$. Then came the $\clubsuit 2$ (suitpreference for clubs): three – $\blacktriangledown 10$ – $\spadesuit 5$. North switched to a club. South ruffed. That was two down, N-S +300.

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Zimmermann	Pszczola	Multon
		Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	3 ♦!
3♥	5 ♦!	Dble	All Pass
	_		

(1) Transfer to hearts



South's $3 \diamondsuit$ was a better description of the nature of the South hand than South's $2 \blacktriangledown$ at the other table. South ruffed the \bigstar K lead and played \bigstar 2, \bigstar J. West switched to the \blacktriangledown 3. South took the \blacktriangledown A and played \bigstar 10: queen $- \diamondsuit$ Q $- \bigstar$ 9. After \diamondsuit 5 to the \diamondsuit 9 and the \diamondsuit K, South played \bigstar 6, ace, \diamondsuit J. South lost a heart and a spade, +750, +10 Imps.

You rarely get rich by doubling opponents who have bid to a high level at unfavourable vulnerability. Assuming the opponents are sane, what they lack in high cards almost always has compensation in extreme shape. Note that North-South have only 17 HCP, but South can make 5♦ against any defence. East would have done better to bid 5♥. That would have reduced the loss.

In a practice match on the same deal on BBO, it went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♥	3♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

East was two down, -100.

South dealer: East-West vulnerable

North

- **♦** AK1053
- **♥** KQ10
- ♦ O92
- **♣** 43

South

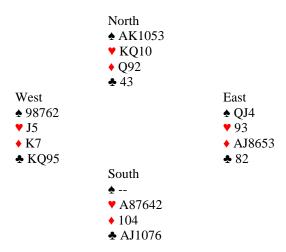
- **•** --
- **♥** A87642
- **♦** 104
- ♣ AJ1076

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	$2^{(1)}$	Dble	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Fourth-suit, forcing to game

West leads the ◆K: two – eight – ten. West continues with the ◆7: nine – jack – four. East plays the ◆A . . . What do you play as South? This arose in the same match:

South dealer: East-West vulnerable



(Directions changed for convenience)

West Helness	North Brink	East <i>Martens</i>	South Driiver
11000000	27777	Pass	1♥
Pass	2 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2 \(\big(2) \)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (1) Game-force relay
- (2) Any minimum opening

West led the $\bigstar K$, ace. South played $\blacktriangledown K$, $\blacktriangledown Q$, $\bigstar A$, $\bigstar K$, pitching two diamonds, and the $\bigstar 4$ to the $\bigstar J$. He ruffed a club later for 12 tricks, +480

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Multon	Kalita	Zimmermann
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Fourth-suit, forcing to game

East's double of the fourth-suit 2♦ asked West to lead a diamond. After ♦K, the ♦7, nine, jack, and the ♦A, South ruffed with the ♥8. West over-ruffed with the ♥J. South had a club loser later, one down and 11 Imps away.

In a practice match, after the same auction and the same first two tricks, followed by the \blacklozenge A, South ruffed with the \blacktriangledown A. South drew trumps in two rounds, pitched two club losers on the \blacklozenge A, \blacklozenge K, and made ten tricks, +420.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. West dealer: Both vulnerable

West North East South $1 \blacklozenge$?

What would you do as North with:

- **★** 8653
- **♥** KJ7
- **♦** J
- ♣ AQ832
- 2. North dealer: Both vulnerable

West North East South
1 → 1NT Dble
?

What would you do as West with:

- **★**82
- **9**865
- **♦** 1032
- **♣** 10983

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

Comment to partner when dummy comes down much weaker than expected: "Whatever happened to the hand you held during the bidding?"