

32. Margin calls

By Ron Klinger

West dealer : Both vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1♦ | ? | | |

What would you do as North with:

♠ 8653
♥ KJ7
♦ J
♣ AQ832

The above hand is borderline for a takeout double. The good news is the shortage in diamonds and support / tolerance for the unbid suits. The downside is that it has only 10 useful HCP (you would downgrade the bare ♦J) and you have only three hearts, albeit decent ones.

In the quarter-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams), five of the eight Norths doubled and four auctions ended with South in 4♥ here:

West dealer - Both vulnerable

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ 8653 | |
| | ♥ KJ7 | |
| | ♦ J | |
| | ♣ AQ832 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ AQ42 | | ♠ K10 |
| ♥ 10 | | ♥ 9542 |
| ♦ K109865 | | ♦ Q432 |
| ♣ K6 | | ♣ 1094 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ J97 | |
| | ♥ AQ863 | |
| | ♦ A7 | |
| | ♣ J75 | |

With the lucky layout in clubs, declarer in 4♥ can avoid a club loser and just concede three spades. East has compulsory false-card situation in clubs and should drop the ♣9 or ♣10 on the first round of clubs. That might lead South astray. Sweden and Bulgaria were in 4♥ with one Imp to Bulgaria for an overtrick when West led the club six, ducked to the jack.

China was in 4♥ making after 1♦ : Double : Pass : 4♥, all pass. At the other table, Gavin Wolpert, North, passed 1♦ and China had an uncontested auction to 2♦, making three for +11 Imps.

Almost the same auctions occurred in England vs USA1. Nick Nickell passed 1♦ and England played in 2♦, +110. At the other table, Tony Forrester, South, was in 4♥ on the ♦10 lead, jack, queen, ace. He led the spade jack, taken by the king and East cashed the spade ten. He switched to the heart five. South won in hand and ducked a club. Back came another heart and South finished two down, East-West +100, no swing.

Poland's East-West had an uncontested auction that ended in 4♦ by West, one down, North-South +50. At the other table, Poland's Michal Klukowski, North, doubled Frederic Volcker's 1♦ opening as West. Thomas Bessis (East) raised to 2♦. Piotr Gawrys, South, bid 4♥ and West sacrificed in 5♦, doubled by South. North led the heart king. South overtook and switched to the club seven. Two clubs and the diamond ace as well meant two down, North-South +300, 6 Imps to Poland.

North dealer : Both vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | 1♦ | 1NT | Dble |

What would you do as West with:

♠ 82
♥ 9865
♦ 1032
♣ 10983

Penalties abounded on Board 45 of the quarter-finals in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl:

North dealer : Both vulnerable

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ Q93 | |
| | ♥ KQ43 | |
| | ♦ J65 | |
| | ♣ KJ5 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ 82 | | ♠ A54 |
| ♥ 9865 | | ♥ AJ102 |
| ♦ 1032 | | ♦ A97 |
| ♣ 10983 | | ♣ Q42 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ KJ1076 | |
| | ♥ 7 | |
| | ♦ KQ84 | |
| | ♣ A76 | |

After North opened 1♦, Tommy Bergdahl (East for Sweden) doubled. This was certainly more prudent than a 1NT overcall with marginal strength. Some would say East is underweight for 1NT. South bid 1♠ and North-South reached 4♠. West led the heart six, king, ace and South discarded a club on the heart jack return. The defence could take no more than their three aces, North-South +620.

At the other table, Julian Stefanov (Bulgaria) overcalled 1NT as East, South doubled, all pass. The ♠10 lead was ducked and so was the ♠7 to North's ♠Q. East won the third spade and played the ♥A, followed by the ♥J. North won and switched to the ♦J. Declarer made only his three aces, down four, North-South +1100, 10 Imps to Sweden.

Joel Wooldridge (USA2, East) also overcalled North's 1♦ with 1NT. South doubled and John Hurd, West, ran to two clubs, (showing clubs and another suit). This came back to South, who doubled again, all pass. North led the ♥K, taken by the ♥A. The ♥J went to the queen. Declarer lost a spade, a heart, a heart ruff, three clubs and two diamonds, three down, North-South +800. At the other table:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Li</i> | <i>Demuy</i> | <i>Hu</i> | <i>Kranyak</i> |
| | 1♦ | 1NT | Dble |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | All Pass |

This went four down, North-South +400, 9 Imps to China. If South's double of 2♦ would be for takeout, then North must double 2♦ to preserve the possibility of penalties.

Andrew Robson (England) was the only North to pass and who can blame him, with an aceless 4-3-3-3 12-count. East opened 1NT, Tony Forrester, South, bid 2♦ (diamonds and a major) and North jumped to 3NT. South removed to 4♠, all pass, and made the expected ten tricks, North-South +620. The Hackett brothers picked up Imps via this route:

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ Q93 | |
| | ♥ KQ43 | |
| | ♦ J65 | |
| | ♣ KJ5 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ 82 | | ♠ A54 |
| ♥ 9865 | | ♥ AJ102 |
| ♦ 1032 | | ♦ A97 |
| ♣ 10983 | | ♣ Q42 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ KJ1076 | |
| | ♥ 7 | |
| | ♦ KQ84 | |
| | ♣ A76 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Jason Hackett</i> | <i>Levin</i> | <i>Justin Hackett</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1NT | Dble |
| 2♣ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| Pass | Pass | Rdble | Pass |
| 2♥ | Dble | All Pass | |

As West's 2♣ showed clubs and another, East could afford to redouble with the 4-3-3-3 pattern to ask for West's second suit. North led the ♥3, ducked to the ♥9. Declarer played the ♠8 and ducked North's ♠9. The ♥K was taken by the ace and after ♠A and a spade ruff, West led the ♥8. North took the ♥Q and shifted to the ♦5. Declarer collected the ♠A, a spade ruff, three hearts and the ♦A for two down, North-South +500, but 3 Imps for England.

Thomas Bessis, East for France, doubled North's Polish 1♣ opening and Michal Klukowski, South, ended in 4♣, +620. At the other table East overcalled 1NT, South doubled and West ran to 2♣. This came back to South who eschewed a penalty doubled. He bid 3♣ and North ended in 3NT. East led the club two and scored just his three aces, North-South +630, no swing.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. You are the dealer, with neither side vulnerable. What do you do with:

♠ A3
♥ KQJ
♦ A7
♣ A106532

2. You have this situation in your trump suit:

North (dummy)
Q84

South (you)
K10632

The lead is in dummy and as you have no convenient entry to hand, you decide to lead the four from dummy. Your plan is to finesse the ten, but when East produces the jack, you play the king and West takes the ace. West switches to a suit which you win in your hand. You have no clues from the bidding. What is your next play in trumps?

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

If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?