

37. High points

By Ron Klinger

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	Pass	Pass	6NT

(1) 15-17

(2) Slam invitation

What would you lead as West from:

♠ Q102
♥ 108542
♦ 76
♣ Q97

From the 2015 Bermuda Bowl quarter-finals.

	North	
	♠ A43	
	♥ KJ3	
	♦ AK3	
	♣ J1064	
West		East
♠ Q102		♠ 976
♥ 108542		♥ 6
♦ 76		♦ QJ1095
♣ Q97		♣ 8532
	South	
	♠ KJ85	
	♥ AQ97	
	♦ 842	
	♣ AK	

Five pairs played in 6NT, generally on an invitational auction. Declarer has ten top tricks and can create an extra one in clubs. The hand boils down to the spade finesse and the expected result is one down. In Bulgaria vs Sweden, 6NT was played by North in both rooms. East had an easy ♦Q queen lead and both Norths went one down.

Against South's 6NT West has no reason to make an attacking lead against two balanced hands. Gavin Wolpert (USA2) led the ♥2, East-West +100. Shaolin Sun (China) led the ♠2, North-South +1440. 17 Imps to USA2.

Poland played in 3NT, +660, +13 Imps after Jacek Kalita led the ♥4 against France's 6NT at the other table, East-West +100.

Steve Weinstein – Bobby Levin (USA1) bid 1NT : 4NT, 5♥ : 6♥, all pass. That went two down on the ♥2 lead, East-West +100. Andy Robson – Tony Forrester bid 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ : 3NT, +660, 13 Imps to England.

South dealer : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
5♦	?	2♦	2♠
		Pass	

What would you do as North with:

♠ Q97
♥ J9
♦ 2
♣ AQJ10863

Four tables faced a five-level decision on Board 21:

South dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ Q97	
	♥ J9	
	♦ 2	
	♣ AQJ10863	
West		East
♠ 32		♠ A6
♥ 876542		♥ Q103
♦ KJ86		♦ A109543
♣ 7		♣ K9
	South	
	♠ KJ10854	
	♥ AK	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ 542	

Bulgaria and Sweden were in 4♠, North-South +620, no swing. John Hurd – Joel Wooldridge (USA2) had an uncontested auction to 4♠, +620. At the other table, over South's 1♠, Paul Fireman, USA2's West, bid 3♥ – no suit quality required. North bid 4♠ and Gavin Wolpert, East, bid 5♥. South doubled, all pass. North led the diamond two and the defence collected a diamond ruff, a spade, a club and two hearts for +500, but 3 Imps to USA2.

Against Tony Forrester – Andy Robson (England), Jeff Meckstroth (West for USA1) raised Eric Rodwell's 2♦ overcall to 4♦ and North's 4♠ was passed out, North-South +620. At the other table, after the problem above, Steve Weinstein, North for USA1, bid 5♠ over 5♦. The defence came to a diamond, a spade and a club, East-West +100, 12 Imps to England.

The same problem was faced at both tables in France vs Poland. Godefroy de Tessieres, North for France, also bid 5♠, East-West +100. Poland's young Michal Klukowski, North, passed over 5♦. That was forcing and Gawrys, South, doubled, all pass. The defence came to a spade, two hearts and a club, North-South +300 and 9 Imps to Poland.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. North dealer : Nil vulnerable

North
 ♠ AK854
 ♥ 32
 ♦ 643
 ♣ QJ8

East
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ AQ976
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A643

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	3♦	All Pass	

West leads the ♥4. Plan the defence for East. After you win trick 1, what do you play at trick 2?

2. North dealer : East-West vulnerable

North
 ♠ 954
 ♥ 84
 ♦ 98
 ♣ QJ9632

West
 ♠ A76
 ♥ J952
 ♦ 1062
 ♣ A84

West	North	East	South
	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♥2: four – queen – ace. South plays the ♠Q. What would you do as West?

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

“People with honorary awards are looked upon with disfavour. Would you let an honorary mechanic fix your brand-new Mercedes?” (Neil Simon, quoted in The New York Times in 1984 after he received an honorary degree.)