# 45. The treatment for six losers

### By Ron Klinger

After the success of Columbus-Alt in March, bid72, bridge 24 and netbridgeonline, together with BBO (Bridge Base Online), organized The Alt Invitational. There were eight teams, playing a round-robin, followed by semifinals and a final. These were the teams:

Blass Josef Blass, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadski,

Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi)

De Botton Janet de Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Jason Hackett, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Alexander Hydes,

Artur Malinowski

Hungary Miklos Dumbovich, Gal Hegedus, Csaba Szabo, Balasz Szegedi, Gabor Winkler Upmark Peter Bertheau, Per Ola Cullin, Simon Hult, Marion Michielsen, Fredrik Nyström,

Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark

Meltzer Rose Meltzer, Nikolay Demirev, Bartosz Chmurski, Piotr Nawrocki, Piotr Tuczynski,

Piotr Wiankowski

Milner Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland

Street Paul Street, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtman, Fred Pollack, Piotr Zatorski

Team NL Maarten Schollaardt, Merijn Groenenboom, Danny Molenaar, Tim Verbeek,

Joris van Lankveld, Berend van den Bos, Bart Nab, Bob Drijver, Guy Mendes de Leon,

Thibo Sprinkhuizen

Zhao Chen, Liu Jing, Bauke Muller, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs

**Round 1**: BLASS beat ZHAO by 55 Imps to 16 (17.01-2.99 in Victory Points). DE BOTTON beat HUNGARY by 78-42 (16.64-3.36) MELTZER beat MILNER by 81-36 (17.69-2.31) and TEAM NL beat STREET by 53-38 (13.34-6.66).

#### **Ranking after Round 1:**

- 1. MELTZER 17.69
- 2. BLASS 17.01
- 3. DE BOTTON 16.64
- 4. TEAM NL 13.34
- 5. STREET 6.66
- 6. **HUNGARY** 3.36
- 7. ZHAO 2.99
- 8. MILNER 2.31

North dealer: Nil vulnerable

West North East South Pass 1♥ ?

What would you do as South with:

**♦** AOJ1062

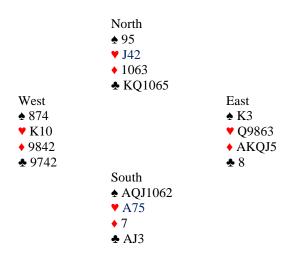
**♥** A75

**♦** 7

♣ AJ3

In days gone by, overcalls other than a 1NT overcall were limited to about 16 HCP, 6 or more losers. If stronger than that, one would start with a takeout double and bid your 5+ suit later. There is a modern tendency to overcall with even very strong hands, up to about 18 points. Most Souths either do not adhere to the modern style or upgraded their hand because of the excellent spades, the control in every suit and sitting over the opening bid. Six Souths chose to double and two opted for 14.

North dealer : Nil vulnerable



#### DE BOTTON vs HUNGARY

#### **HUNGARY** North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
<b>2</b> ♥?	3♣	3♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West's  $2 \checkmark$  allowed North to show some values, about 6-9 points, with the  $3 \clubsuit$  bid. That was enough for South to jump to  $4 \spadesuit$ . West led  $\checkmark$ K. South won, played the  $\clubsuit 3$  to the  $\clubsuit$ K, followed by the  $\spadesuit 9$ : three – two – four and the  $\spadesuit 5$ , king, ace, and the  $\spadesuit Q$ . South made 12 tricks, +480. The spade slam is excellent. It makes if East has  $\spadesuit$ K,  $\spadesuit$ K-x,  $\spadesuit$ K-x-x (and no club void).

#### **DE BOTTON North-South:**

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

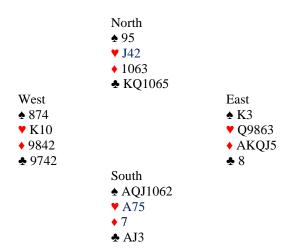
South led the  $\triangle A$  and so East made 10 tricks, +130 and +12 Imps.

#### **BLASS vs ZHAO**

#### **BLASS** North-South:

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

North's excellent double of  $3 \blacklozenge$  showed useful values for the  $2 \clubsuit$  bid. That was enough for South to bid  $4 \spadesuit$ . West led the  $\blacktriangledown$ K. South won, crossed to dummy with a club and ran the  $\spadesuit$ 9. North-South +480.



#### **ZHAO** North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♠
<b>4</b>	4♠	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's jump to 3♠ opposite a hand that could have no points usually shows a 4-loser hand. A 2♠ bid by South here would be about 5 losers or an upgraded 6-loser hand.

South led the  $\Delta A$ , followed by the  $\Delta 2$ . East won, cashed A, K, played the 3 to the K and ran the 10 to the A. Declarer still had a club to lose, one down, -100 but +9 Imps.

#### **MELTZER vs MILNER**

Overcalling 1\( \Delta \) on the South cards does not automatically mean that you miss 4\( \Delta \):

#### **MELTZER** North-South:

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

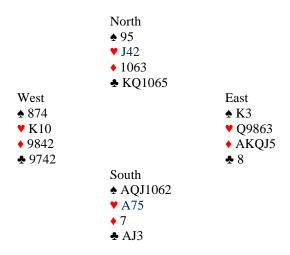
Of course, 1♠ might have been passed out. Lucky for South that East had a routine 2♠ re-opening.

West led the ♥K. South took the usual path to 12 tricks, +480.

#### MILNER North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
3♦	Pass	<b>4</b> ♦!	All Pass

South led the  $\triangle A$ , followed by the  $\triangle Q$ . East won and played  $\checkmark 3$  to the  $\checkmark K$ , followed by the  $\checkmark 10$  to the  $\checkmark A$ . East made ten tricks, +130 and +12 Imps.



#### STREET vs TEAM NL:

#### **STREET** North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
4♦	Dble!	Pass	<b>4♥</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) D: 1			

(1) Pick a game, partner.

North's double showed values, considering North's 2♣ might have had no strength. South's 4♥ offered North the choice of 4♠ or 5♣. West led the ♥K and South made 12 tricks in the usual manner, North-South +480. Given West's 4♠, East might have bid on to 5♠. In the worst case scenario (South leads a low club to North, who switches to a spade), East is still only -300 in 5♠ doubled. In the real world, 5♠ doubled will be -100.

Just because South makes a takeout double initially is no guarantee that North-South will reach game.

#### **TEAM NL** North-South:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
3♦	Dble!	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the  $\P$ K. South won and, praying the  $\P$ K would be with West, played  $\P$ A and  $\P$ 2, won by the  $\P$ K. East cashed the  $\P$ Q and Wet showed an even number. East switched to the  $\P$ Q and gave West a heart ruff. That held South to 9 tricks, +140, East-West +8 Imps.

## **Problems for Tomorrow:**

#### 1. East dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
<b>1</b> ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1</b> ♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	3♥	?

- (1) 4+ hearts
- (2) For takeout, like a takeout double over a natural 1♥

What would you do as South with:

- **▲** J96532
- **v** 108
- **♦** 952
- **♣** 93
- 2. South dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♦	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

- **♠** AQ765
- **♥** AQ932
- **♦** 6
- **♣** Q2

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

Why is 'phonetic' not spelled the way it sounds?