

69. Splat level

By Ron Klinger

East dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♦	4♠	Pass	1♠
		5♦	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AJ432
♥ AK2
♦ Q
♣ 9765

The deal comes from GAUTRET vs ZIMMERMANN, one of the semi-finals in the 2019 Spingold (USA Knockout Open Teams).

Bd. 8: East dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North		
	♠ KQ1076		
	♥ Q853		
	♦ 93		
	♣ 108		
West		East	
♠ 95		♠ 8	
♥ 10		♥ J9764	
♦ AJ10862		♦ K754	
♣ AQ42		♣ KJ3	
	South		
	♠ AJ432		
	♥ AK2		
	♦ Q		
	♣ 9765		
West	North	East	South
<i>M.Mus</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Fr'esche</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Gautret</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>C.Mus</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♦	4♠	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There is no defence to 5♦. Both Norths led the ♠K. Both Wests lost just a spade and a heart, making 11 tricks, +550. In a practice match on BBO, the bidding was identical, except that Jessica Brake, South, did not double 5♦ and thus gained 4 Imps against the other scores.

The Law of Total Tricks did not work out perfectly on this deal: Each side has ten trumps, so Total Trumps 20, but North-South can make 4♠ and East-West can make 5♦, so Total Tricks = 21. Of course, swap East's ♥9 for West's ♠9 and East-West can make only ten tricks in diamonds. The par result is for North-South to bid 5♠, which if doubled is -100 and gains 10 Imps in the Spingold.

South dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠	4♥	4♠	2♥ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	5♥	?	Pass

(1) 5 hearts, 4+ minor, 6-10 points

What would you do as East with:

♠ AK6
♥ 83
♦ KQ1095
♣ K103

The main choices are 5♠, Double or Pass. Your choice?

Bd. 9: South dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North		
	♠ J842		
	♥ K9762		
	♦ 6		
	♣ A76		
West		East	
♠ Q10975		♠ AK6	
♥ J		♥ 83	
♦ A4		♦ KQ1095	
♣ QJ854		♣ K103	
	South		
	♠ 3		
	♥ AQ1054		
	♦ J8732		
	♣ 92		

West	North	East	South
<i>M.Mus</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Fr'esche</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
2♠	4♥	4♠	2♥ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

(1) 5 hearts, 4+ minor, 6-10 points

West led the ♠5. East won with the ♠K and switched to the ♥8. Next came the ♦6 from dummy. East won with the ♦K and played the ♥3. South could ruff only three diamonds in dummy and so lost a spade, two diamonds and a club, two down, -300. That was a reasonable result, as 4♠ is unbeatable.

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Gautret</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>C.Mus</i>
2♠	4♥	5♠	2♥ ⁽¹⁾
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 5 hearts, 4+ minor, 6-10 points

North led the ♥2. South won with the ♥A and switched to the ♣9. North won and reverted to the ♥K. West ruffed and played the ♠9: two - six - three. That was one down, -100 and 9 Imps to GAUTRET.

Should West overcall 2♠? That was yesterday's second problem. Both Wests did. No doubt East expected a better hand for 2♠, since he jumped to 5♠ asking partner to bid 6♠ with control in hearts. East was hoping for something like ♠QJxxx ♥x ♦Axx ♣Axxx or better. In a BBO practice match on the same deal, it went 2♥ : Pass : 4♥ : Double, Pass : 4♠, all pass. Declarer made ten tricks for +420.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
?			Pass

(1) Heart raise, limit or stronger

What would you do as West with:

♠ AJ10
♥ KJ976
♦ J62
♣ QJ

2. West dealer : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?

(1) 15-17 points

What is your plan of bidding with this South hand? East-West pass throughout.

♠ AKQ64
♥ K9643
♦ 53
♣ 2

Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

What's the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.