69. Splat level

By Ron Klinger

East dealer: Nil vulnerable

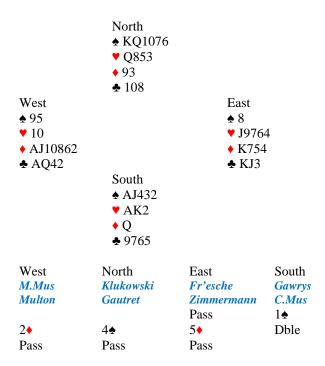
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	1♠	
2♦	4♠	5♦	?	

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



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 $4 \triangleq$ and East-West can make $5 \blacktriangleleft$, so Total Tricks = 21. Of course, swap East's $\blacktriangledown 9$ for West's $\triangleq 9$ and East-West can make only ten tricks in diamonds. The par result is for North-South to bid $5 \triangleq$, which if doubled is -100 and gains 10 Imps in the Spingold.

South dealer: East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			$2^{(1)}$
2♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	?	
(1) 51	4	•	

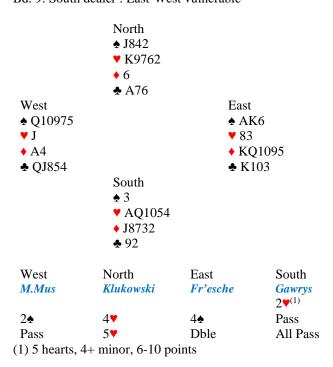
(1) 5 hearts, 4+ minor, 6-10 points

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



West led the \clubsuit 5. East won with the \clubsuit K and switched to the \blacktriangledown 8. Next came the \spadesuit 6 from dummy. East won with the \spadesuit K and played the \blacktriangledown 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 $4\spadesuit$ is unbeatable.

West	North	East	South
Multon	Gautret	Zimmermann	C.Mus
			$2^{(1)}$
2♠	4♥	5♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
(1) 5 heart	s, 4+ minor, 6-10	points	

North led the \checkmark 2. South won with the \checkmark A and switched to the \clubsuit 9. North won and reverted to the \checkmark K. West ruffed and played the \spadesuit 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 ? Jumped and ? Axxx ? Axxx or better. In a BBO practice match on the same deal, it went ? Pass : ? Double, Pass : ? Double, Pass : ? all pass. Declarer made ten tricks for ? Double, Pass : ? Double, Pass : ? Double, Pass : ? Pass : ? Double, Pass : ? Dou

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. South dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	1.	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
?	1♠	∠ ⊋ 、-,	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 15			

(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.