98. It's been a heart day's night

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	?		

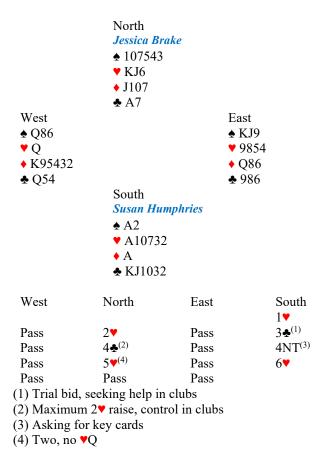
(1) Trial bid, seeking help in clubs

What would you do as North with:

- **★** 107543
- **♥** KJ6
- ♦ J107
- **♣** A7

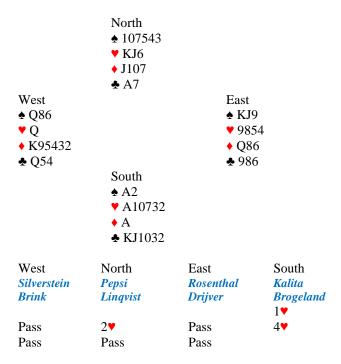
The deal comes from a BBO match, Jessica Brake (N) – Susan Humphries (S), members of the 2020 Australian Women's Team. In the auction above, Brake rebid 4♣ as North. She had a maximum hand for her 2♥ bid and 4♣ showed control in clubs. This was a cost-nothing bid. With no slam interest, South would rebid 4♥. With slam interest, North had shown her values.

Dealer South: Both vulnerable



With a spade loser, the ♥Q missing and needing the clubs to come home, the slam is nothing flash, but it had the merit of being successful. West led the ♠6: three – nine – ace. Declarer played the ♥2, queen, king and cashed the ♥J. Then came ♠A, ♠K and third club ruffed. Trumps were drawn and South had twelve tricks, +1430.

The deal originated in the BLASS vs ROSENTHAL quarter-finals of the 2019 Spingold (USA K-O Open Teams).



Given that North might have had ♥K-Q-x and ♣A, South's 4♥ can be considered a touch conservative.

Dealer South: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	$2NT^{(1)}$	Pass	4 ♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	?		

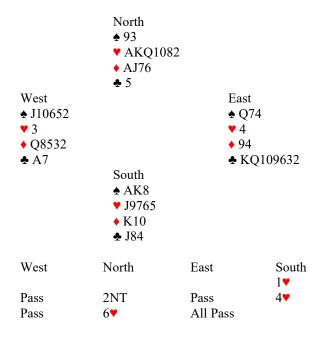
- (1) Game-force, 4+ hearts, 15 + points
- (2) Minimum opening, no shortage

What would you do as North with:

- **♦**93
- **♥** AKQ1082
- **♦** AJ76
- **♣** 5

The North hand has only 5 losers. South's minimum opening will usually have 7 losers. Applying the Losing Trick Count formula, 5 + 7 = 12 and 24 - 12 = 12 tricks are probable. North is entitled to ask for key cards and continue with $6 \checkmark$ if partner shows two. As partner can have at most the jack in hearts, partner's remaining values will be in the outside suits. The deal comes from a match on BBO. Avi Kanetkar (N) could have cue-bid $5 \checkmark$ or bid $4 \checkmark$ (their key-card ask) over $4 \checkmark$, but eschewed both of these, lest they attract a lead-directing double, in favour of a direct jump to $6 \checkmark$.

Dealer South: Both vulnerable



The South hand was eminently suitable and 6♥ did not tax declarer's skills, North-South +1430.

This deal is from the same BBO Spingold match.

(Directions changed for convenience)

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Silverstein	Pepsi	Rosenthal
			1♥
1♠	2 ♠ ⁽¹⁾	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣ ⁽²⁾	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) Strong heart raise
- (2) Cue-bid first- or second-round control in clubs

Lead: ♠5. 12 tricks, North-South +680

North	East	South
Brink	Linqvist	Drijver
		1♥
3 ♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♥
5 ♣ ⁽²⁾	Dble	Pass
5 ♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	
	Brink 3♠(1) 5♣(2) 5♦(2)	BrinkLinqvist $3 \spadesuit^{(1)}$ Pass $5 \spadesuit^{(2)}$ Dble $5 \spadesuit^{(2)}$ Pass

- (1) Strong heart raise (maybe a splinter psyche to discourage a spade lead?)
- (2) Cue bid

Lead: ♣7. 12 tricks, North-South +680, no swing.

Problems for Tomorrow:

- 1. You are the dealer, vulnerable against not. What would you do with:
- **♠** KQ1062
- **♥** QJ
- **♦** 1052
- ♣ K63
- 2. There are three passes to you. The opponents are vulnerable, you are not. What do you do with:
- **♠** A6
- ♥ A962
- ♦ K62
- ♣ A1065

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

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie.