

# 101. Leaders and bidders

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	3♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What would you lead as West from:

♠ Q962  
♥ 1075  
♦ AQJ2  
♣ Q7

Today's deals are from the quarter-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl.

Board 60: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North		East
	♠ AK43		♠ J85
	♥ 862		♥ 4
	♦ 93		♦ 1085
	♣ J965		♣ AK10832
West		South	
♠ Q962		♠ 107	
♥ 1075		♥ AKQJ93	
♦ AQJ2		♦ K764	
♣ Q7		♣ 4	

On this deal, 4♥ was routinely beaten by Bulgaria, Sweden, China, Poland, England and USA1 on a trump lead and a second trump later, but it succeeded at two tables:

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Sun</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♥	3♣	4♥
Dbf	Pass	Pass	Pass

South has eight tricks on top and with the diamond ace over the king and guarded three times, declarer needs two diamond ruffs in dummy. West is powerful in diamonds, strongish in spades and partner has bid clubs. When your side is strong in three suits, a trump lead becomes attractive and here it makes the defence easy.

West led the ♣Q. East overtook with the ♣K, followed by the ♣A, ruffed. South played the ♠7 to the ace and the ♦3: five – six – queen. This would have been a good time to lead a trump, but back came the ♠6, king. South continued with the ♦9: ten – four – two. East reverted to the ♣8. South ruffed with the ♥J, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ♥A and ruffed his last diamond. A spade ruff and the top hearts ended proceedings, North-South +590, 12 Imps to China.

	North	
	♠ AK43	
	♥ 862	
	♦ 93	
	♣ J965	
West		East
♠ Q962		♠ J85
♥ 1075		♥ 4
♦ AQJ2		♦ 1085
♣ Q7		♣ AK10832
	South	
	♠ 107	
	♥ AKQJ93	
	♦ K764	
	♣ 4	

Jassem – Mazurkiewicz bid 1♥ : 2♥, 4♥, all pass. Lhuissier led the ♠6, king. Declarer played the ♦3: five – king – ace. West switched to the ♥7, won by the ♥9. The ♠10 went to the ace and at trick 5 declarer played the ♦9: ten – four – two. East cashed the ♣K and switched to the ♠J. South ruffed with the ♥A, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond and made ten tricks, +420, +11 Imps.

The defence could have prevailed a number of ways. At trick five, East could have played the ♦8 under the nine. West would win and play a second trump. West could have overtaken the ♦10 and played a second trump anyway. Left on lead with the ♦10, East could have switched to a low club, a play that was found in another match. West would win and play a second heart.

With neither side vulnerable, South deals and opens 2NT, 20-22 balanced. What would you do as West with:

♠ J109863  
♥ 7  
♦ --  
♣ 1098432

Suppose instead that the opening had been 1♣, artificial, strong. What would you do then?

On Board 65, the West players might have been asked, ‘Are you a man or a mouse? Squeak up!’

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A	
	♥ 654	
	♦ AK9762	
	♣ J65	
West		East
♠ J109863		♠ Q742
♥ 7		♥ A109832
♦ --		♦ 1083
♣ 1098432		♣ --
	South	
	♠ K5	
	♥ KQJ	
	♦ QJ54	
	♣ AKQ7	

At four tables South opened a strong 1♣. West bid 2♠ (Wrang and Forrester) or 3♠ (Stefanov), but the ‘man’ award goes to Demuy (USA2) for 4♠. Four Souths opened 2NT. Three Wests (Rombaut, Weinstein, Kang) passed and the ‘man’ award goes to Gawrys, who bid 3♠. As you can see, 6NT is unbeatable and 6♦ by North is unbeatable, but East-West have a remarkably good save in spades.

	North	
	♠ A	
	♥ 654	
	♦ AK9762	
	♣ J65	
West		East
♠ J109863		♠ Q742
♥ 7		♥ A109832
♦ --		♦ 1083
♣ 1098432		♣ --
	South	
	♠ K5	
	♥ KQJ	
	♦ QJ54	
	♣ AKQ7	

Best results for East-West came in Bulgaria vs Sweden:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Guney</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
2♠	3♦	4♠	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble

(1) Artificial, strong

North led the spade ace and switched to the club five, ruffed. Declarer cashed the heart ace and cross-ruffed hearts and clubs for ten tricks, Sweden +590

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
3♠	4♣	4♥	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	4NT	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble

(1) Artificial, strong

North led the ♠A and switched to the ♦K, ruffed. After heart to the ace, heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff, dummy's hearts were high and West claimed eleven tricks, +650, 2 Imps to Bulgaria.

After Demuy bid 4♠ over Liu's strong club, China bid to 6♦ and Kranyak saved in 6♠, doubled. North led the ♦K. Demuy ruffed and set up the hearts for eleven tricks, North-South +100. At the other table, Hurd opened 2NT and the auction was uncontested up to 6♦, to be played by South. Had this been passed out, a club lead would take the slam down. However, East doubled to ask for an unusual lead and Wooldridge, North, ran to 6NT. West led the ♠J, taken by the ace. A heart came from dummy and when East ducked, South had all the tricks, +1020, 14 Imps to USA2.

Bakhshi (South for England) opened 2NT and an uncontested auction led to 6♦, played by South. West led the ♣10, ruffed. East cashed the ♥A, East-West +50. At the other table, Rodwell (South for USA1) opened a strong 1♣. Forrester overcalled 2♠ and North-South bid to 6NT. Rodwell made all the tricks when East ducked on the first round of hearts, North-South +1020, +14 Imps to USA1.

	North	
	♠ A	
	♥ 654	
	♦ AK9762	
	♣ J65	
West		East
♠ J109863		♠ Q742
♥ 7		♥ A109832
♦ --		♦ 1083
♣ 1098432		♣ --
	South	
	♠ K5	
	♥ KQJ	
	♦ QJ54	
	♣ AKQ7	

Kalita (South for Poland) opened 2NT and reached 6♦ to be played by South. East doubled, South redoubled and North removed to 6NT. Kalita made the usual +1020. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
3♠!	4♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	4♣	2NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	6♦	6♣	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble

(1) Shows diamonds

North led the ♦A, ruffed. Declarer cross-ruffed clubs and diamonds for tricks 2-5, played the ♥A, ruffed a heart and made ten tricks, North-South +300, but 12 Imps to Poland.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	4♣	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ 95  
♥ J865  
♦ AK1076  
♣ 74

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

*Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to do the job.*