

102. Take five

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

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

What would you do as East with:

♠ 95
♥ J865
♦ AK1076
♣ 74

Today's deal is from the finals of the 2017 World Teams Championships.

Board 49: Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K8764	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ QJ102	
West		East
♠ QJ		♠ 95
♥ AQ1092		♥ J865
♦ J3		♦ AK1076
♣ K983		♣ 74
	South	
	♠ A1032	
	♥ K74	
	♦ 854	
	♣ A65	

This comes from the Venice Cup (Women's Teams):

China East-West:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	3♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Fit-showing jump, 4+ hearts, 5+ good diamonds

North led the ♣Q. South took the ♣A and switched to ♠A and ♠2. North won and played a third spade, ruffed in dummy and West discarding ♣8. Declarer ran the ♥8, played the ♥6 to the ♥9, cashed ♣K, ruffed the ♣9 and had ten tricks for +170.

At the other table:

England East-West:

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

(1) Fit-showing jump, heart support and, 5 good diamonds

	North	
	♠ K8764	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ QJ102	
West		East
♠ QJ		♠ 95
♥ AQ1092		♥ J865
♦ J3		♦ AK1076
♣ K983		♣ 74
	South	
	♠ A1032	
	♥ K74	
	♦ 854	
	♣ A65	

Against West's 5♥, North led the ♠4. South won and cashed the ♣A: nine – queen (denying the ♣K) – ♣4. South reverted to the ♠2: jack – king – nine. That was one down, North-South +50 and 6 Imps to China.

East-West would have done better, of course, by defending against 4♠. The defence can always come to a heart, two diamonds and a club. If West leads the ♦J, not farfetched, the defence will take ♦K, ♦A, diamond ruff, the ♥A and later a club for two down, +100 and a loss of 2 Imps instead of 6. Best would be for East-West to double 4♠ and collect 300 and +4 Imps instead of –6. How can that be achieved?

Some pairs play a double of 4♠ as takeout. For others, the double of 4♠ is penalties. Another choice for a double of 4♠ especially and possibly 4♥ as well is the 'Do What's Right' double. Essentially the double says, 'I have adequate values and am prepared for you to bid to the 5-level or to pass for penalties. Do what you think is right.' Bidding 5♥ or 5♦ over 4♠ is committal. Double gives partner choices. The advantage of this double is (a) You have not committed your side to the 5-level and (b) If partner makes the wrong choice, it is not your fault. 😊

Suppose East makes a 'Do what's right' double over 4♠ in the above deal. South passes and West, with only 13 HCP including the wasted spade honours and facing a passed partner, should have no problem passing for penalties. Even if West leads the ♥A, East should play the ♥J (or ♥8) as suit-preference for the higher suit, diamonds. West switches to the ♦J and East-West collect 300.

In the Venice Cup playoff for third:

Sweden East-West:

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

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Fit-showing jump

North led the ♣Q. South took the ♣A and switched to the ♠2. North won and returned the ♠8 to the ace. South reverted to the ♣6. West won and played the ♦3 to the ♦A, followed by the ♥J, winning, the ♥6 to the ♥Q and the ♥A. Then came the ♦J to the ♦K, a diamond ruff, a club ruff in dummy and West had 10 tricks, +170.

Poland East-West:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Good heart raise

The play began the same way: ♣Q to ♣A; ♠2 to ♠K; ♠8 to ♠A; ♣6, taken by ♣K; ♦3 to ♦A, but then it varied. West cashed the ♦K, followed by the ♥5 to ♥10, the ♣8 ruffed, the ♥8 to the ♥9 and the ♣9, ruffed with the ♥J and over-ruffed by South, one down, North-South +50 and 6 Imps to Sweden.

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K8764	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ QJ102	
West		East
♠ QJ		♠ 95
♥ AQ1092		♥ J865
♦ J3		♦ AK1076
♣ K983		♣ 74
	South	
	♠ A1032	
	♥ K74	
	♦ 854	
	♣ A65	

Bermuda Bowl (Open Teams), USA2 East-West

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

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Good heart raise

(3) For takeout

West led the ♦J, queen, king. East cashed ♦A and ♦10. West discarded ♥2, asking for a club switch. East played the ♣7, five, queen, and West returned the ♣9. South won with the ♣A, crossed to the ♠K and came back to the ♠A, one down, East-West +50.

France East-West:

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

(1) See the discussion on page 2 on the 'Do What's Right' double.

North led the ♣J. South took the ♣A and switched to the ♠A and the ♠2 to the ♠K. North returned the ♦9, ace. Declarer ran the ♥8, repeated the heart finesse, cashed the ♥A and then played the ♦J: two – six – five. 'That ♦9 didn't fool me.' West made ten tricks, –50, 3 Imps to USA2.

Playoff for third, New Zealand East-West:

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

North led the ♥3: eight – four – two. West played the ♥5 to the ♥9, cashed the ♥A and continued with the ♦J: two – six – four. West played the ♦3 to the ♦10, pitched two spades and a club on the diamond winners. A club to the king gave West 12 tricks, +480.

Bulgaria East-West:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Good heart raise

The play began ♣Q to the ♣A; ♠2 to ♠K; ♠4 to ♠A. West made ten tricks, +420, but 2 Imps to New Zealand.

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K8764	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ QJ102	
West		East
♠ QJ		♠ 95
♥ AQ1092		♥ J865
♦ J3		♦ AK1076
♣ K983		♣ 74
	South	
	♠ A1032	
	♥ K74	
	♦ 854	
	♣ A65	

D'Orsi Bowl (Seniors' Teams), Italy East-West:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	2NT ⁽²⁾	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Good heart raise

After ♣Q to ♣A; ♠A cashed; spade to ♠K; North exited with the ♣J to the ♣K. West played ♦3 to ♦K; ♦A cashed; ♦10 ruffed and was one down. This was virtually a no-chance line.

USA2 East-West:

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

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Fit-showing jump

West led the ♦J. East played ♦K, ♦A and the ♦7, ruffed by West. Then came the ♥A and the ♠Q. West eventually made a club trick for two down, North-South +100 and 4 Imps to USA2.

Playoff for third, India East-West:

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

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Fit-showing jump

After the usual start, ♠Q to ♠A, ♠3 to ♠K, ♠8 to ♠K, South exited with the ♦4: three – queen – ace. West played ♥A and the ♥Q to the king for nine tricks, +140.

Sweden East-West:

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

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Good heart raise

North led the ♠Q. South won and played ♠A and ♠2 to the ♠K. North switched to the ♦9, ace. After ♥8, winning, and the ♥5 to the ♥9, West played the ♦J to the ♦K, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♥A and claimed ten tricks, +420 and 7 Imps to Sweden.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♥	4♠	?	1♠

What would you do as East with:

♠ 6
♥ 842
♦ K10973
♣ AK64

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

If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?