

103. Take another five

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♥	4♠	?	1♠

What would you do as East with:

♠ 6
♥ 842
♦ K10973
♣ AK64

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

Board 60: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

		North		
		♠ K9842		
		♥ K97		
		♦ J52		
		♣ 32		
West			East	
♠ 5			♠ 6	
♥ AQ1065			♥ 842	
♦ A64			♦ K10973	
♣ J1097			♣ AK64	
		South		
		♠ AQJ1073		
		♥ J3		
		♦ Q8		
		♣ Q85		

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

England East-West:

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

North led ♠2. South took the ♠A and switched to the ♣5, the ♣J winning. After ♦4 to the ♦K, declarer finessed the ♥Q. North won and returned a club, taken in dummy. Declarer drew trumps, but still had to lose a diamond, one down, North-South +100. That is not impressive with East-West having five tricks on top against 4♠.

After the same 1♠ : 2♥ : 4♠ start to the auction in yesterday's column, this suggestion was made: '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.'

A 2-level overcall has 7 losers or fewer. East also has a 7-loser hand. Applying the Losing Trick Count formula, $7 + 7 = 14$ and $24 - 14 = 10$ tricks probable. Therefore, if East is facing a minimum 2♥ overcall, 5♥ rates to be one down. Suppose East had applied the 'Do What's Right' double. With an 11-count nondescript 1-5-3-4 pattern, West would have no interest in competing to 5♥. West would pass 4♠ doubled and collect 300.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
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	♥ K97	
	♦ J52	
	♣ 32	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ 6
♥ AQ1065		♥ 842
♦ A64		♦ K10973
♣ J1097		♣ AK64
	South	
	♠ AQJ1073	
	♥ J3	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ Q85	

China East-West:

West	North	East	South
			2♠ ⁽¹⁾
Dble	4♠	4NT ⁽²⁾	Pass
5♣	5♠??	Dble	All Pass

(1) Weak two, 8-12 points

(2) Takeout, 2-suited or 3-suited

North's 5♣ was a serious misjudgment. It generally does not pay to sacrifice with a balanced hand. North has 9 losers, South's weak two figured to have 7 or 8 losers. Using the Losing Trick Count, 9 + 8 = 17 and 24 - 17 = 7 tricks or four down doubled, -800. 9 + 7 = 16 and 24 - 16 = 8 tricks or three down doubled -500. South had 7½ losers (count the clubs as 2½). As expected, declarer lost two clubs, a heart and two diamonds. That was three down for -500 and 12 Imps to China.

North did enough with the jump to 4♠. It rarely pays to bid the same values twice. You pre-empt as high as you dare and then hope the opponents do the wrong thing. As the cards lie, East-West were overboard in 5♣. The defence can always come to a spade, a heart and a club, for one down, and possibly also a diamond for two down. Why would you want to be in 5♣ doubled for -500 / - 800 when you can be + 100 / +200 in 5♣?

Playoff for third:

Sweden East-West:

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

(1) Mixed spade raise (7-10 points)

West led the ♣J. The defence came to their five tricks, East-West +300.

Poland East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Dble	4♠	4NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
5♣	Pass!	Pass	Pass

(1) 2-suiter or 3-suiter

North led the ♠K(!). South overtook and switched to the ♥3, ten, king. North returned the ♥9. Declarer won, cashed ♣A, ♣K and claimed one down. West played hearts and whenever South ruffs, South is endplayed; if South does not ruff, throw South in with a trump and play for split honours in diamonds. One down was -100 and 9 Imps to Sweden.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K9842	
	♥ K97	
	♦ J52	
	♣ 32	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ 6
♥ AQ1065		♥ 842
♦ A64		♦ K10973
♣ J1097		♣ AK64
	South	
	♠ AQJ1073	
	♥ J3	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ Q85	

Bermuda Bowl (Open Teams), USA2 East-West

West	North	East	South
			2♣
3♥	4♠	5♥ ⁽¹⁾	All Pass

(1) Another good auction for the Do What's Right double

Note that North did not go on to 5♠. The ♠2 lead went to the ace. Back came the ♥3, ten, king. Back came a heart. West drew the last trump, played the ♣J: three – ace – five, followed by the ♦3 to the ♦A and the ♦4: five – ten – queen for one down, –100.

France East-West:

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

(1) Do What's Right double

West led the ♣J and the defence collected the first five tricks, +300 and 9 Imps to France.

Playoff for third, New Zealand East-West:

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♣J. The defence took the first five tricks, East-West +100.

Bulgaria East-West:

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

(1) Spade raise, 6-9 points

West led the ♠5. Declarer eventually lost five tricks, East-West +300 and 5 Imps to Bulgaria.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K9842	
	♥ K97	
	♦ J52	
	♣ 32	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ 6
♥ AQ1065		♥ 842
♦ A64		♦ K10973
♣ J1097		♣ AK64
	South	
	♠ AQJ1073	
	♥ J3	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ Q85	

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

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

(1) Do What's Right.

West led the ♣J. Declarer lost the first five tricks, East-West +300.

USA2 East-West:

West	North	East	South
			2♠
Dble	4♠	4NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Playable in two or three suits

North led the ♠2. South took the ♠A and switched to the ♥3, ten, king. North returned the ♥7. West won, crossed to the ♣A, back to the ♦A and played the ♣J: two – four – queen. There was no endplay and declarer finished two down, –200 and 11 Imps to Italy.

Playoff for third, India East-West:

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

North led the ♠2. South took the ♠A and switched to the ♥3: ten – king – two. North now switched to the ♦2??: nine – queen – ace. It is usually wrong to attack dummy's long suit (or declarer's long suit) outside trumps. Declarer drew trumps and could now have made 5♥ by finessing the ♦10. However, he did not believe the defenders would give him such a chance. Instead, he played the ♣J, low king, cashed the ♣A and exited with a club for one down, –100. Still, it could not have hurt West to play a diamond after drawing trumps. If North followed, inserting the ♦10 would ensure ten tricks if the ♦10 lost and make 5♥ if the ♦10 won. If North showed out, declarer could play the ♦K and exit with the ♦10 to go one off eventually.

Sweden East-West:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Dble	4♠	4NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Playable in two or three suits

North led the ♠K. South overtook and shifted to the ♥3, ten, king. North returned the ♥9. West won, cashed the ♣A, ♣K and ran the hearts to produce an endplay (see bottom paragraph on page 2). South ruffed the fifth heart and played a spade, allowing declarer to ditch a diamond. Exiting with the ♦Q would have given declarer a guess. East-West –100, no swing.

Problems for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Dble ⁽¹⁾	?		3♠

(1) For takeout

What would you do as North with:

♠ KJ8
♥ J8
♦ 10652
♣ Q973

2. Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ 63
♥ AK98
♦ K3
♣ 106432

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

Yeah, I have plans tonight. I'll probably hit the living room around 8 or 9.