

# 117. The bold and the bashed

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
4♦	Pass	Pass	1♥
			?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AQ  
♥ Q98753  
♦ Q  
♣ A863

This is a tough question. Taking action can be right. Passing can be right. You could double. That figures to work out well if partner passes for penalties. You might be all right if partner bids 4♥ or 5♣. You will probably not be well-placed if partner bids 4♠. Bidding 4♥ is an out-and-out gamble. It could work.

Yesterday's first problem was:

West	North	East	South
4♦	?		1♥

What would you do as North with:

♠ 62  
♥ AK42  
♦ J42  
♣ J1042

North has good heart support, but only 9 HCP and a 9-loser hand. It is not a hand that would have bid to 4♥ if West had passed. If partner will give you some leeway for a 4♥ bid here, then that would be a good choice. It certainly takes all the pressure off South in the first problem above. After 1♥ : 4♦, six Norths bid 4♥, with five Souths successful. At seven tables 4♦ was passed out for -200 x 6 and -100 once.

North  
♠ 62  
♥ AK42  
♦ J42  
♣ J1042

South  
♠ AQ  
♥ Q98753  
♦ Q  
♣ A863

After 1♥ : 4♦ : 4♥, all pass, West leads the ♦K and switches to the ♣Q: two – seven – ace. Plan the play. Then read on.

You have six heart tricks, the ♠A and the ♣A. You can create an extra trick in clubs to bring your tally to nine. All will be well if clubs are 3-2 – not likely after the ♣Q switch – or if the ♠K is onside. Can you make it if East began with four clubs and West has the ♠K?

The deal arose during a practice session on BBO with robots East-West.

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 62	
	♥ AK42	
	♦ J42	
	♣ J1042	
West		East
♠ K3		♠ J1098754
♥ 106		♥ J
♦ AK1098763		♦ 5
♣ Q		♣ K975
	South	
	♠ AQ	
	♥ Q98753	
	♦ Q	
	♣ A863	

After ♦K lead and ♣Q switch taken by the ace, Jim Biggins (Kansas, USA), a close friend, played the ♥7 to the ♥A, ruffed the ♦4 with the ♥8, followed by the ♥9 to the ♥K and the ♦J: ♠J – ♣3! – ♦A. West had only diamonds and spades left. A spade would give South two tricks there and another diamond, allowing a ruff and discard, would also eliminate South's spade loser. South lost just two clubs and a diamond.

If declarer wins the ♣A at trick 2, draws trumps with ♥A, ♥K and finesses the ♠Q, West wins and a spade return will defeat 4♥. Note that South had retained the ♥3. If West happened to have a second club and played it when in with the ♦A, the ♣J or a third club would dislodge East's ♣K. South could then win the spade switch, cross to dummy with the ♥3 to the ♥4 and ditch the ♠Q on dummy's fourth club (as South had thrown the ♣3 on the ♦J).

None of the other declarers who made 4♥ found this sure-tricks play (as long as West had the ♦A, a certainty on the ♦K lead). In general, after ♣A, South crossed to the ♥A, ruffed the ♦4, returned to the ♥K and ruffed the ♦J. Then came a club. One helpful computer East had played the ♣9 at trick 1. South had it easy. After declarer drew trumps, eliminating diamonds on route, and played a club to the jack and king, the other super-friendly Easts did not switch to a spade, but returned a club, which solved South's problem there.

It would have been interesting if East had captured the ♣J with the ♣K and switched to a spade. I wonder how many Souths would have finessed. If so, West wins and a spade return beats 4♥. However, on the spade switch from East, South simply takes the ♠A and exits with the ♠Q! Whoever wins that is forced to eliminate South's club loser either via a ruff-and-discard or by a club return if East happened to have the ♠K.

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
Pass <sup>(2)</sup>	?		

- (1) For takeout
- (2) For penalties

What would you do as North with:

♠ 109872  
 ♥ QJ932  
 ♦ 102  
 ♣ 4

This deal appeared in the same BBO session:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 109872	
	♥ QJ932	
	♦ 102	
	♣ 4	
West		East
♠ QJ64		♠ K3
♥ 4		♥ 10876
♦ Q8		♦ AKJ975
♣ Q109873		♣ A
	South	
	♠ A5	
	♥ AK5	
	♦ 643	
	♣ KJ652	

This is what happened at one table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
Pass <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass		

(1) For takeout

(2) For penalties

West led the ♥4: queen – six (suit-preference for diamonds) – five. After ♣4, ace, East returned the ♥7 (suit preference for diamonds): ace – ♣3 – ♥2. West switched to the ♠4: two – king – ace. Declarer cashed the ♣K, discovering the really bad news, and played the ♥K. West ruffed, followed by the ♠Q and the ♠J. South ruffed and was down to ♦6-4-3 ♣J-6. Whether South played a club next or a diamond, the defence would take the last five tricks. South made one spade, one heart and two clubs, four down, East-West +1100 and +14.4 Imps.

This was yesterday's second question:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A5  
♥ AK5  
♦ 643  
♣ KJ652

I do have some sympathy for South. Those clubs are nowhere good enough for a 2♣ overcall, but South does have 15 HCP. South has no diamond stopper. That excludes 1NT (for most players, anyway). Usually with a balanced hand of 15+ points and no stopper in opener's suit, one starts with a takeout double, but that does not appeal with only a doubleton spade. With North having already passed, game is unlikely from South's point of view, but possible. The winning action is to pass, but that would be too hard for most players.

What about North? After West had passed East's takeout double, should North meekly accept what fate has dished out? There are no guarantees, but it is an option for North to redouble. This is known as an SOS Redouble (for rescue). It asks partner to pick some other spot. South would bid 2♥, which East would double, but the carnage would not be nearly so terrible. Declarer has the ♠A and five heart tricks for two light, –500.

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 109872	
	♥ QJ932	
	♦ 102	
	♣ 4	
West		East
♠ QJ64		♠ K3
♥ 4		♥ 10876
♦ Q8		♦ AKJ975
♣ Q109873		♣ A
	South	
	♠ A5	
	♥ AK5	
	♦ 643	
	♣ KJ652	

At other tables, it regularly began Pass : Pass : 1♦ : 2♣, Pass : Pass, but no other East doubled. Some bid 2♦, others 2♥. One West made 3NT, +400, while two others failed there. The popular spot was 3♦ +110.

After Pass : Pass : 1♦ : 2♣, Pass : Pass, what is the worst that can happen if you double for takeout? If partner bids 2♦, fine. If partner bids 2♥, fine. You could raise to 3♥. If partner bids 2♠, bad luck, but you can simply retreat to 3♦. And if partner passes for penalties, jackpot!

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. With both sides vulnerable. partner opens with a weak 2♠ (6-10 points), Pass on your right. What would you do with:

♠ 73  
♥ AKJ108  
♦ 94  
♣ AQ64

2. Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North  
♠ 9872  
♥ Q95  
♦ 763  
♣ A102

South  
♠ AK43  
♥ J3  
♦ AK98  
♣ KQ6

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	1♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>(3)</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- (1) Artificial, strong
- (2) Artificial, negative
- (3) Artificial, hearts or big balanced
- (4) Forced

West leads the ♥6: five – eight – jack. How would you play as South?

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

*If people from Poland are Poles, what should we call people from Holland?*