

195. Best in a supporting role

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	Pass	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
?			

(1) 5+ spades, inviting game

What would you do as West with:

♠ Q
♥ A9
♦ Q109863
♣ AKQ4

At the end of 13 qualifying rounds of 7-board matches in the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, the top four in Section A would play against the top four in Section B in the quarter-finals (12 boards). In Section A, New Zealand (Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Matthew McManus – Michael Ware, James Coutts – Justin Mill, 159.67 Victory Points) were first. HK Open (152.13) came second, Australia I (Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung – Jamie Thompson) were third on 150.65 and Australia II (Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera, Matt Mullamphy – Ian Thomson – Ron Klinger) fourth with 149.59.

New Zealand II (Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell, Matthew Brown – Michael Whibley, Peter Newell – Martin Reid, Jonathon Westoby) with 130.41 came ninth and missed the finals. No significance in that result. Seven-board matches are a lottery.

Today's deal comes from the quarter-final match between Australia I and Dhampur Sugar Mills (India).

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ KJ8754
♥ J84
♦ J72
♣ 7

The hand has 6 HCP and you can add 3 points for the singleton club. After 1♦ : Double : Pass, a jump to 2♠ normally shows a hand of 10-12 points, usually an 8-loser hand. As the South hand has 9 points, not 10-12, and has nine losers rather than eight, one might fairly say that a 1♠ reply to the takeout double is quite enough. You can always do more later. At the table South chose 2♠.

With regard to the problem at the top of the page, West has excellent shape with a 6-4 pattern. Hands with a 5-5 or 6-4 pattern or freakier have powerful playing potential if a trump fit exists. West is entitled to bid 3♣ over 2♠ and that is precisely what Jamie Thompson did.

Board 3: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A93	
	♥ Q7532	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ J6	
West		East
♠ Q		♠ 1062
♥ A9		♥ K106
♦ Q109863		♦ 4
♣ AKQ4		♣ 1098532
	South	
	♠ KJ8754	
	♥ J84	
	♦ J72	
	♣ 7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>		<i>Hung</i>	
1♦	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♣!	3♠	5♣!	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North led the ♦K and switched to the ♠A, followed by the ♠9. West ruffed this, ruffed a diamond in dummy and drew trumps. Another diamond ruff set up the rest of West's diamonds and that was 11 tricks, East-West +550.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hans</i>		<i>Gill</i>
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♣!	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial, 17+ points

It is true that East is known to have a weak hand – many pairs using a strong 1♣ play that after 1♣ and an overall, bids show (8) 9+ points and double shows any hand of 5-8 points – but even so, with such excellent club support and a 4-loser hand, West might have stretched and bid 4♣, if not 5♣. Note the Losing Trick Count in action: West has 4 losers, East has 9 losers: 4 + 9 = 13 and 24 – 13 = 11 tricks expected. East-West have only 20 HCP, including a useless ♠Q, but shape beats points when a good trump fit exists.

West began with the ♣A and ♣K. South ruffed, played ♠K, ♠J, ♠A and the ♥2: six – jack – ace. West continued with the ♣Q. South ruffed and played the ♥8: nine – queen – king. East's next club was ruffed by South with his last trump. The result was two down, –200, but 8 Imps to Australia I.

That was the only significantly good news for Australia I. Dhampur Sugar Mills (India) won the 12-board match by 30-11.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?		2♠ ⁽¹⁾

(1) 5 spades, 0-6 points or 6 spades, 0-2 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ 109842
♥ 10753
♦ 87
♣ K8

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

Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

New book: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.