195. Best in a supporting role

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	Pass	2 ♠ ⁽¹⁾
9			

(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

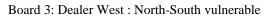
West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	Pass	?

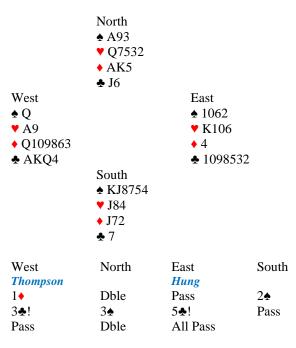
What would you do as South with:

▲ KJ8754
♥ J84
♦ J72
₹ 7

The hand has 6 HCP and you can add 3 points for the singleton club. After $1 \diamond$: Double : Pass, a jump to $2 \diamond$ 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 $1 \diamond$ reply to the takeout double is quite enough. You can always do more later. At the table South chose $2 \diamond$.

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 $3 \clubsuit$ over $2 \bigstar$ and that is precisely what Jamie Thompson did.





North led the \bigstar K and switched to the \bigstar A, followed by the \bigstar 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
	Hans		Gill
1 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	3 ♣ !	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Artificia	l, 17+ points		

It is true that East is known to have a weak hand – many pairs using a strong $1 \ge$ play that after $1 \ge$ and an overcall, 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 $4 \ge$, if not $5 \ge$. 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 $\ge Q$, 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 $2^{(1)}$
Pass	?		21

(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 <u>suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</u> or telephone 0411 229 705.