

# 197. Shutting the trap

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Dble	4♠	?

(1) Weak two, can be very weak

What would you do as South with:

♠ Q  
♥ 763  
♦ J1082  
♣ KQ987

At the end of 13 qualifying rounds in the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, New Zealand I (Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Matthew McManus – Michael Ware, James Coutts – Justin Mill were first in Section A. In the quarter-finals, they faced Formidables, who had come fourth in Section B.

Board 3: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	West	North	East	South
	♠ J6		<i>Jacob</i>		<i>Tislevoll</i>
	♥ AQJ4	2♠	Dble	4♠	Pass
	♦ A76	Pass	Pass		
	♣ J1043				
West		East	North led the ♠6. West took ♠A, ♠K – ♥7 from South.		
♠ 1098432		♠ AK75	West cashed the ♣A and played the ♦Q. North won		
♥ 5		♥ K10982	and returned a diamond. West lost two diamonds and		
♦ K95		♦ Q43	a heart, but had ten tricks, East-West +420.		
♣ 652		♣ A			
	South		At the other table:		
	♠ Q	West	North	East	South
	♥ 763		<i>Coutts</i>		
	♦ J1082	2♠	Dble	4♠	5♣?
	♣ KQ987	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♥5: ace – ten – six. After ♣3 won by the ♣A, East played the ♥K and the ♥9 (suit-preference for spades). West ruffed and returned the ♠9, taken by the ♠K. As West had played ♣2, ♣5, East thought West had no more clubs – high-low in trumps shows an odd number. East continued with the ♠A, ruffed. South crossed to the ♣J, drawing West's last trump, cashed the ♥Q, discarding the ♦2, returned to the ♣Q and ran the ♦10: five – six – queen. East returned the ♦4: jack – king – ace. South still had a diamond to lose. South lost a spade, a heart, a heart ruff, a club and two diamonds, four down, –1100 and 12 Imps to New Zealand I.

South has an 8-loser hand. A takeout double at the 1-level or 2-level usually has 7 losers or fewer. Applying the Losing Trick Count,  $8 + 7 = 15$  and  $24 - 15 = 9$  tricks expected. That is why South should pass 4♠. If North has a 5-loser hand  $5 + 8 = 13$  and  $24 - 13 = 11$  tricks expected, North will bid again, probably with another takeout double. Now South can bid 5♣ or 4NT minors.

As it happens, North has an 8-loser hand, so  $8 + 8 = 16$  and  $24 - 16 = 8$  tricks expected. The actual result was one trick worse than expectation. North-South's actions at the other table were a model of what should happen. Today's deal would also merit a place in *The Power of Pass*. See next page.

New Zealand I won the match by 32 Imps to 16.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

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

(1) Natural, 4+ diamonds, 11-21 points

(2) Fourth-suit, forcing to game

What would you do as South with:

♠ 83

♥ AKQJ7

♦ AJ54

♣ A7

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

*Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom. (Francis Bacon)*

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](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) or telephone 0411 229 705.