

200. Hearts in the right place

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠ ⁽¹⁾	2♥
Pass	3♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	?

(1) 5+ spades, standard methods

(2) Good heart raise

What would you do as South with:

♠ 8
♥ KQ1093
♦ QJ63
♣ KQ8

The 28-board final of the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, was between Dhampur Sugar Mills (India) and New Zealand I (Nick Jacob – Geo Tislevoll, Matthew McManus – Michael Ware, James Coutts – Justin Mill).

In the problem above, West was Michael Ware and East was Matthew McManus, playing their ‘Crunch System’. Their highly artificial methods apply only for first and second seat openings. Opposite a passed partner, their methods are standard.

In the auction above, many would play 2♠ by North as a strong heart raise. If there were some other nuances with the 3♦ bid, they bid not appear on the BBO alert, which simply said ‘good raise in hearts’.

The South hand has 5 losers. One can reasonably expect partner to have heart support and two winners for the ‘good raise in hearts’. Two winners would reduce South’s losers from five to three and so South is worth 4♥.

Board 12: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 1052	
	♥ A7	
	♦ K1082	
	♣ A542	
West		East
♠ 974		♠ AKQJ63
♥ J865		♥ 42
♦ 54		♦ A97
♣ J963		♣ 107
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ KQ1093	
	♦ QJ63	
	♣ KQ8	

In practice, after the auction above, South bid 3♥, all pass. Was North’s doubleton heart support a surprise? North has a tough problem after South’s overcall. A lot of the time, South will have six hearts in this situation and so showing a strong heart raise is appropriate.

West led the ♠4. East won with a deceptive ♠K and continued with the ♠A, ruffed with the ♥3. The ♦J went to the ♦A and East returned the ♠J. South discarded the ♦3. East switched to the ♦9. Declarer won and played ♥A, ♥K, ♥Q. Declarer had a heart lose, but that was nine tricks, North-South +140.

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	North	
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West		East
♠ 974		♠ AKQJ63
♥ J865		♥ 42
♦ 54		♦ A97
♣ J963		♣ 107
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ KQ1093	
	♦ QJ63	
	♣ KQ8	

At the other table, Tislevoll eliminated any rebid problem by a passed hand by opening the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Tislevoll</i>		<i>Jacob</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾	2♠	Dble ⁽³⁾
Pass	3♣ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	3♠ ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (1) 7+ points, 5+ hearts
- (2) Normally 2+ hearts, minimum opening, conceivably a singleton heart
- (3) For takeout
- (4) 4 clubs, not 3 hearts
- (5) Stopper ask for 3NT

East led the ♠A, followed by the ♠K, ruffed with the ♥3. After ♦3: four – king – seven and the ♦2: ace – six – five, East persisted with the ♠Q, ruffed with the ♥9. Declarer played ♥A, ♥Q, ♥K and had ten tricks. West had the ♥J but no more spades. When South played the ♦Q and West ruffed, South claimed the rest and had ten tricks for +620 and 10 Imps to New Zealand I.

That was the only good news for New Zealand I in the first half. At that point, Dhampur Sugar Mills was in front by 26 Imps to 12.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?

- (1) Good weak-two, 8-10 points

What would you do as South with:

- ♠ AK87
- ♥ 1054
- ♦ A82
- ♣ J109

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