

202. Order, order

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North
♠ K5
♥ KJ105
♦ QJ74
♣ KJ10

South
♠ QJ84
♥ 98
♦ A83
♣ A632

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) 2+ clubs

West leads the ♠7: five – nine – queen. Plan the play.

There was a 28-board playoff for third in the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, for the losing semi-finalists, Australia II (Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera, Matt Mullamphy – Ian Thomson – Ron Klinger) and Hong Kong Open.

Board 6: Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K5	
	♥ KJ105	
	♦ QJ74	
	♣ KJ10	
West		East
♠ 73		♠ A10962
♥ A64		♥ Q732
♦ K9652		♦ 10
♣ 874		♣ Q95
	South	
	♠ QJ84	
	♥ 98	
	♦ A83	
	♣ A632	

Hong Kong Open North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Braithwaite</i>		<i>De Livera</i>	
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ♥2. West won and returned the ♥6: jack – queen – eight. Then came the ♥3: ♠4 – ♥5 – ♥10. Declarer played the ♦Q: ten – eight! – five. Declarer was assured of 3 diamond tricks whether West took the ♦K or not. Had West captured the ♦Q, North would later play ♦A. Having unblocked the ♦8, North would finesse the ♦7.

At trick 5, declarer played the ♠K. East won and returned a spade, taken by the ♠Q. Then came the ♦A and the ♦3. South made 3 diamonds, 2 spades, 2 hearts and 2 clubs. There was no need to locate the ♣Q.

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♦ K9652		♦ 10
♣ 874		♣ Q95
	South	
	♠ QJ84	
	♥ 98	
	♦ A83	
	♣ A632	

Australia II North-South:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Thompson</i>		<i>Cooper</i>
Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♠	2NT ⁽²⁾
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) 2+ clubs

(2) Invitational

West led the ♠7: five – nine – queen. Declarer played the ♣2: eight – ten – queen. East cashed the ♠A and brought back the ♣5, won by the ♣K. Declarer cashed the ♣J, followed by the ♦Q: ten – three – king.

West returned the ♦2: four – ♥2 – ♦8. Declarer cashed the ♦A and ♣A. With no sure entry to dummy to reach the ♦J, South needed to pick the heart position. The ♥8 went to the ten and queen. Back came the ♥7 to the ace and that was one down –50 and 10 Imps to Hong Kong Open. The defence had taken a club, a spade, a diamond and two hearts.

Note that even if South had unblocked the ♦8, there were still only 3 diamond tricks, 2 spades and 3 clubs. Declarer would still have had to pick the hearts.

There is an important principle here. It is usually best to attack the suits where tricks have to be lost anyway. The clubs can wait. South knew the spades proved no threat. If East pursued spades, South would make three spade tricks and could keep East off lead later.

After winning trick 1, a good move would be to run the ♥9. East wins and, say, cashes the ♠A, and returns a heart. West wins and plays a third heart, taken in dummy.

Now declarer can run the ♦Q (and even fail to unblock the ♦8). West wins and returns a diamond. South can win with the ♦8, cash the ♦A, cross to the ♣K, cash the ♦J and the fourth heart, return to hand with the ♣A and cash the ♠J. Once there were two heart losers, if the diamonds had not behaved, declarer still had the chance to pick the clubs. The problem with the club finesse at trick 2 was that it set up the fifth trick for the defence. The right order was to tackle the red suits first.

Suppose the diamonds had not been so friendly. Once declarer finds West with the ♥A and the ♦K, it would be easy to place East with the ♣Q to justify East's 1♠ overcall. As it was, East's 1♠ was significantly underweight.

West is a passed hand. East-West are vulnerable against not. The spade suit is nothing special. If West had good hearts or good clubs, you have help there if partner chooses one of those suits to lead. There are no compelling reasons for East to overcall 1♠. Put me in with De Livera's pass at the other table.

At the end of the first half, Hong Kong Open led by 43-9.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?	

(1) 5-card weak two in hearts or in spades, occasionally 6-carder, 3-7 points

What would you do as East with:

♠ 9754
♥ KQ32
♦ 3
♣ K532

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

The only difference between me and a madman is that I'm not mad. (Salvador Dali, 1904-1989)

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.