

## 203. Grand larceny

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

|                   |       |      |       |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------|
| West              | North | East | South |
| 2♦ <sup>(1)</sup> | 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

At halfway in the 28-board playoff for third place in the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League, Hong Kong Open was leading Australia II (Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera, Matt Mullamphy – Ian Thomson – Ron Klinger) by 43 Imps to 9.

Board 17: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

|          |          |        |  |
|----------|----------|--------|--|
|          | North    |        |  |
|          | ♠ 82     |        |  |
|          | ♥ A9     |        |  |
|          | ♦ Q8764  |        |  |
|          | ♣ AQ64   |        |  |
| West     |          | East   |  |
| ♠ KJ1063 |          | ♠ 9754 |  |
| ♥ 1075   |          | ♥ KQ32 |  |
| ♦ 52     |          | ♦ 3    |  |
| ♣ J98    |          | ♣ K532 |  |
|          | South    |        |  |
|          | ♠ AQ     |        |  |
|          | ♥ J864   |        |  |
|          | ♦ AKJ109 |        |  |
|          | ♣ 107    |        |  |

|                   |       |                    |       |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| West              | North | East               | South |
| <i>Thompson</i>   |       | <i>Cooper</i>      |       |
| 2♦ <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass  | 4♥! <sup>(2)</sup> | Pass  |
| 4♠                | Pass  | Pass               | Pass  |

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

(2) Pass with hearts, correct with spades

North-South have 27 HCP, but East-West had stolen them blind and were not even doubled. North led the ♦6. South won with the ♦K and switched to the ♣10: jack – ace – two. North played the ♣Q: king – seven – nine. On the ♠4 from dummy, South took the ♠A, played the ♥4 to East's ♥A and ruffed the club return with the ♠Q. That was two down, North-South +100.

After ♠A and a club return, West might have played the ♠8 rather than the ♠9. The outcome might well have been the same, but the ♠8 leaves the club position ambiguous for North. South might have led the ♣10 from ♣10-7 or from ♣10-9-7. The ♣9 clarified the position for North.

You should note the efficacy of super-light openings and pre-empts at favourable vulnerability. There was a time when no one would have considered taking action with the West cards.

Board 17: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

|          |          |        |
|----------|----------|--------|
|          | North    |        |
|          | ♠ 82     |        |
|          | ♥ A9     |        |
|          | ♦ Q8764  |        |
|          | ♣ AQ64   |        |
| West     |          | East   |
| ♠ KJ1063 |          | ♠ 9754 |
| ♥ 1075   |          | ♥ KQ32 |
| ♦ 52     |          | ♦ 3    |
| ♣ J98    |          | ♣ K532 |
|          | South    |        |
|          | ♠ AQ     |        |
|          | ♥ J864   |        |
|          | ♦ AKJ109 |        |
|          | ♣ 107    |        |

At the other table:

| West | North          | East | South          |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|
|      | <i>Thomson</i> |      | <i>Klinger</i> |
| Pass | 1♦             | Pass | 1♥             |
| 1♠   | Pass           | 2♠   | 3NT            |
| Pass | Pass           | Pass |                |

West led the ♣9: four – king – seven. East switched to the ♠9: queen – king - two. South won the spade return. The club position gave South 3 club tricks to go with 5 diamonds, a heart and a spade, ten tricks in all for +630 and +11 Imps.

How would you and partner bid these cards:

Board 21: Dealer West : Both vulnerable

|        |           |
|--------|-----------|
| West   | East      |
| ♠ AKQJ | ♠ 932     |
| ♥ A875 | ♥ K2      |
| ♦ A74  | ♦ 106     |
| ♣ Q3   | ♣ AK10842 |

Both Wests began with 2NT. Hong Kong Open bid to 6NT. Thompson – Cooper bid to 7♣. The grand slam is close to 73%, about the right odds for a grand slam at teams. The bad news: clubs were 4-1. The good news: the singleton was the ♣J. That is what boosts the chance for the grand slam from the 68% for a 3-2 break to 73%. That was +1470 for Hong Kong Open and +2140 and 12 Imps for Australia II.

Australia II won by 37-22, but Hong Kong Open won the match by 65-46 and gained third place.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

|      |       |      |       |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
|      | 1♣    | 1♦   | ?     |

What would you do as South with:

♠ 2  
♥ Q76543  
♦ 10753  
♣ 107

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

*Grand larceny: Stealing one thousand dollars.*

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.