

204. Higher perches

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠ ⁽¹⁾	1♣ 3♦ ⁽²⁾	1♦ 4♠	1♥ ?

(1) 5+ spades

(2) 4 hearts, 0-1 diamond, 14-17 points

What would you do as South with:

♠ 2
♥ Q76543
♦ 10753
♣ 107

Players who did not reach the semi-finals in the Yeh Cup Online Open Teams, organized by the Taiwan Contract Bridge League were invited to play in a one-day two-session Open Pairs. The scoring was by Imps. There were 32 pairs, with the top ten in each direction proceeding from the qualifying round to the final.

Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans topped the North-South qualifiers, while Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire scraped through in ninth spot. In the final Gill – Hans were sixth North-South, while Ashton – Wiltshire came first East-West. Well done. This was their best board from the final.

Board 3: Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

	North		
	♠ KQJ10		
	♥ AK92		
	♦ 4		
	♣ Q986		
West		East	
♠ 98653		♠ A74	
♥ J10		♥ 8	
♦ Q96		♦ AKJ82	
♣ A52		♣ KJ43	
	South		
	♠ 2		
	♥ Q76543		
	♦ 10753		
	♣ 107		

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

(1) 5+ spades

(2) 4 hearts, 0-1 diamond, 14-17 points

West led the ♠9. East took the ♠A, cashed the ♦K and switched to the ♣3. The defence took two club tricks for two down, +300 and +9.12 Imps, the top result for East-West on the board. In the meantime, 4♠ was sure to fail with one heart and three spades to lose.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♦	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 2
♥ Q76543
♦ 10753
♣ 107

If you play a weak jump-shift, such as 2♥ here as showing 6+ hearts and 0-5 points, then South has a 2♥ bid. Other than that, South should pass. The trouble is players are seduced by favourable vulnerability into bidding more than their values indicate.

By bidding 1♥, South opened a self-immolating trap later in the auction:

Board 3: Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

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	♠ KQJ10	
	♥ AK92	
	♦ 4	
	♣ Q986	
West		East
♠ 98653		♠ A74
♥ J10		♥ 8
♦ Q96		♦ AKJ82
♣ A52		♣ KJ43
	South	
	♠ 2	
	♥ Q76543	
	♦ 10753	
	♣ 107	

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♦	1♥
1♠ ⁽¹⁾	3♦ ⁽²⁾	4♠	?

(1) 5+ spades

(2) 4 hearts, 0-1 diamond, 14-17 points

It is really hard not to bid 5♥ here. You know the cost will be cheap with your having a singleton spade and partner being short in diamonds. You cannot really afford to pass and leave the decision to partner here, because partner thinks you have a better hand in high cards and figures to let them play in 4♠. Most of the time 4♠ figures to make. South was unlucky here that North had such powerful spades.

If the bidding had started 1♣ : 1♦ : 2♥, South can relax. Having described the nature and strength of the hand, South can let partner take any further action. Who knows what will happen if South passes? If the opponents still get to 4♠ and play there, North-South will have a decent result whether North passes or doubles.

Here are the other auctions:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♥(♠s)	Dble	2♠	All Pass

East made nine tricks, +140, +5.88 Imps.

Board 3: Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

		North		
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		♥ AK92		
		♦ 4		
		♣ Q986		
West			East	
♠ 98653			♠ A74	
♥ J10			♥ 8	
♦ Q96			♦ AKJ82	
♣ A52			♣ KJ43	
		South		
		♠ 2		
		♥ Q76543		
		♦ 10753		
		♣ 107		

West	North	East	South
	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
(1) 10-15 points, 3-suiter, short diamonds			

One down, East-West +100 and +5 Imps.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♦	2♥ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) 0-5 points, 6+ hearts			

One down, East-West +50 and +3.75 Imps

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♦	Pass!
2♦	Dble ⁽¹⁾	3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Takeout			

South made ten tricks: ♦6 lead to ♦K; ♣3 to ♣A: ♣5: eight – jack – ten. Cashing ♠A now would be good, but East chose the ♦A. South ruffed and played ♥A, followed by the ♣Q, king, ruffed with the ♥Q. Then came heart to the ♥K, ♣9, discarding the ♠2 and ♠K for a ruffing finesse. East-West –170, –1.50 Imps.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♦	Pass!
2♦	Dble	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♥5 and the defence took the first six tricks, East-West –200, –2.12 Imps.

West	North	East	South
	1♦ ⁽¹⁾	1NT	2♥ ⁽²⁾
2♠	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
(1) 11-15 points, one or more diamonds			
(2) Natural, weak			

One down, East-West –200, –2.12 Imps.

Board 3: Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQJ10	
	♥ AK92	
	♦ 4	
	♣ Q986	
West		East
♠ 98653		♠ A74
♥ J10		♥ 8
♦ Q96		♦ AKJ82
♣ A52		♣ KJ43
	South	
	♠ 2	
	♥ Q76543	
	♦ 10753	
	♣ 107	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ♦A and the ♦K. North ruffed and played the ♠10: four – two – three. Then came the ♠K, ace, ruffed; a diamond ruff; the ♥A cashed; ♠Q and ♠J to discard ♣7 and ♣10; club ruff; diamond ruff with the ♥K; club ruff; ♥Q to draw the last trump. That was 12 tricks! East-West –480 and –8.12 Imps. Still not top board!

West	North	East	South
	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♦	3♥
4♦	4♥	Dble	All Pass
(1) 4-4-1-4 or 4-4-0-5, 10-15 points			

West led the ♠9: king – four – two. Declarer cashed ♥A, ♥K, and played the ♠Q: ace – ♣7 – ♠3 for ten tricks, East-West –590 and –9.88 Imps. Had declarer played ♥A at trick 2 and then the ♠Q, 11 tricks were available.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

North

♠ KJ1072

♥ J73

♦ K86

♣ 98

South

♠ 543

♥ --

♦ AQ10943

♣ AQJ10

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
Dble	1♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♠ ⁽²⁾
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Exactly three spades

West leads the ♥A: three – nine (discouraging) – ♠3. How would you plan the play?

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

When you buy canaries, when don't you have to pay the full price at once?

When you can buy them on higher perches.

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (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.
