## 205. Holed out or whole doubt?

## By Ron Klinger

Dealer East: East-West vulnerable

North

- **♦** KJ1072
- **♥** J73
- ♦ K86
- **♣** 98

South

- **★** 543
- **Y** --
- ♦ AQ10943
- ♣ AQJ10

West	North	East	South	
		Pass	1♦	
Dble	<b>1</b> ♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1 <b>♠</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) 4+ spade	·c			

- (1) 4+ spades
- (2) Exactly three spades

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

Suppose at trick 2 you play the  $\bullet 10$ :  $\checkmark 4 - \bullet K - \bullet 2$ . How would you continue?

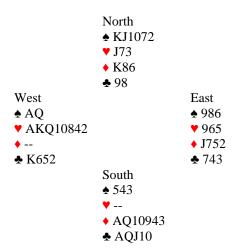
The USA Summer Nationals were to be held in Montreal, but were cancelled. An online event, MontreALT, was organized by bid72 and netbridge.online. A 10-round Swiss of 14-board matches reduced the 32-team field to eight teams for quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.

At the end of the qualifying, the leader was GUPTA (Thomas Bessis, Simon de Wijs, Nareng Gupta, Cedric Lorenzini, Zia Mahmood, Bauke Muller) with 137.15 Victory Points. For the quarter-final, they chose MACAVITY (Kees Bakker, Pim Coppens, Dennis Dewit, John Lesmeister, Gert-Jan Ros, Emile Schols, Michel Schols, Niels van Bijsterveldt, Tim van den Bos, Emiel Vandewiele) who were fifth on 120.53 VPs.

Board 5: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

	North		GUPTA North-South					
	<b>★</b> KJ1072		West	North	East	South		
	<b>♥</b> J73				Pass	1♦		
	♦ K86		1♥	1♠	Pass	2♣		
	<b>♣</b> 98		4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠		
West		East	Pass	Pass	Pass			
<b>♠</b> AQ		<b>◆</b> 986						
♥ AKQ10842	2 ♥ 965		East led the ♠6. West won and returned the ♠Q, taken by the ♠K.					
<b>•</b>	<b>→</b> J752		North's ♠J drew East's last trump. Then came the ♦6 to the ♦A,					
♣ K652		<b>♣</b> 743	the $\diamond 3$ to the $\diamond K$ and the $\diamond 8$ , seven, $\diamond 9$ . Declarer discarded the three heart losers on the $\diamond Q$ , $\diamond 10$ and $\diamond 4$ . Declarer lost a club,					
	South							
<b>◆</b> 543			but had 11 tricks, +450.					
	<b>V</b>							
	◆ AQ10943							
	♣ AQJ10							

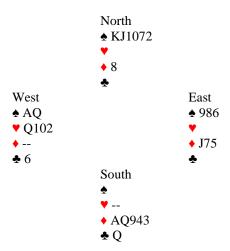
Board 5: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable



MACAVITY North-South: After the auction at the top of page 1, West led the ♥A against South's 4♠ doubled. Given the lucky spade position, there are a number of ways to succeed. A trump at trick 2 would do it, but of course, South is not aware of the fortunate layout. To play a trump and misguess, could see the defenders taking two spades and two hearts.

At trick 2, South played the  $\bigstar 10$ :  $\blacktriangledown 4 - \bigstar K - \bigstar 2$ . Finessing the  $\bigstar 9$  next would have been a winning move. West could ruff with the  $\bigstar Q$ , but South would be comfortably in control. Instead, South ruffed another heart. That was not fatal. Declarer could play the remaining spade next or the  $\bigstar A$ , followed by the spade and still come home.

However, South holed out by playing the  $\clubsuit 10$ . West grabbed the  $\clubsuit K$  and played the  $\blacktriangledown K$ . South ruffed and cashed  $\clubsuit A$ ,  $\clubsuit J$ , discarding a diamond from dummy. This was the position:



If South played a top diamond here, West could ruff with the  $ext{-}Q$  and play a heart or a club. If declarer ruffs high and plays the  $ext{-}2$  to the  $ext{-}A$ , another heart will promote a trump trick for East. In practice, South continued with the  $ext{-}Q$ , discarding the  $ext{-}8$ . East ruffed and played a diamond. West discarded, dummy had to ruff and play a spade, giving West two spade tricks and one off, -100 and 11 Imps to GUPTA, who won the match by 91.1-54.

In the other matches, the results were N 4 - 450 (43 lead) vs S 44 doubled 450, 45 lead, ruffed; 44 at trick 2); W 44 doubled 450 (45 lead, 45 lead, ruffed; spade at trick 2) vs N 44 450 (45 lead ruffed; spade at trick 2) and 45 lead, ruffed; spade at trick 2) vs S 44 doubled 450, 45 lead, ruffed; 45 lead, ruffed; 45 lead, ruffed; 45 lead, ruffed with 45 lead, ruffed; 45 lead, ruffed

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

Dealer East: Both vulnerable

West North East South Pass 1 $\clubsuit^{(1)}$  Pass ? Pass (1) 3+ clubs, standard methods

What would you do as North with:

- **♦** K53
- **4**32
- ◆ Q7632
- **♣** 95

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

My mind says gym, but my heart says tacos.

New book: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email <a href="mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com">suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</a> or telephone 0411 229 705.