

205. Holed out or whole doubt?

By Ron Klinger

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?

Suppose at trick 2 you play the ♦10: ♥4 – ♦K – ♦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
 ♠ KJ1072
 ♥ J73
 ♦ K86
 ♣ 98

West
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ AKQ10842
 ♦ --
 ♣ K652

South
 ♠ 543
 ♥ --
 ♦ AQ10943
 ♣ AQJ10

East
 ♠ 986
 ♥ 965
 ♦ J752
 ♣ 743

GUPTA North-South

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ♠6. West won and returned the ♠Q, taken by the ♠K. North's ♠J drew East's last trump. Then came the ♦6 to the ♦A, the ♦3 to the ♦K and the ♦8, seven, ♦9. Declarer discarded the three heart losers on the ♦Q, ♦10 and ♦4. Declarer lost a club, but had 11 tricks, +450.

Board 5: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KJ1072	
	♥ J73	
	♦ K86	
	♣ 98	
West		East
♠ AQ		♠ 986
♥ AKQ10842		♥ 965
♦ --		♦ J752
♣ K652		♣ 743
	South	
	♠ 543	
	♥ --	
	♦ AQ10943	
	♣ AQJ10	

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 ♦10: ♥4 – ♦K – ♦2. Finessing the ♦9 next would have been a winning move. West could ruff with the ♠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 ♣A, followed by the spade and still come home.

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

	North	
	♠ KJ1072	
	♥	
	♦ 8	
	♣	
West		East
♠ AQ		♠ 986
♥ Q102		♥
♦ --		♦ J75
♣ 6		♣
	South	
	♠	
	♥ --	
	♦ AQ943	
	♣ Q	

If South played a top diamond here, West could ruff with the ♠Q and play a heart or a club. If declarer ruffs high and plays the ♠2 to the ♠A, another heart will promote a trump trick for East. In practice, South continued with the ♣Q, discarding the ♦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 (♣3 lead) vs S 5♠ doubled +650, +5 Imps (♥A lead, ruffed; ♠4 at trick 2); W 4♥ doubled -200 (♥7 lead, ♥9; club, ace; spade: queen – king; diamond, ruffed; ♥A, ♥K, losing a spade and three clubs) vs N 4♠ +420 (♥9 lead ruffed; spade at trick 2) and +6 Imps; N 4♠ +450 (♥5 lead ruffed; spade at trick 2) vs S 5♠ doubled +650, +5 Imps (♥A lead, ruffed; ♦A next, ruffed with ♠Q).

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
(1) 3+ clubs, standard methods			

What would you do as North with:

♠ K53
♥ 432
♦ 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 suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.