213. Competing views

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East: Nil vulnerable

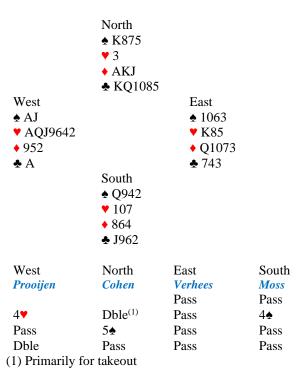
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
4♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?
(1) Primarily	y for takeout		

What would you do as South with:

- **♦** Q942
- **v** 107
- **♦** 864
- **♣** J962

Today's deal comes from the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Knock-Out Teams) Round of 16 match between FLEISHER and TULIN.

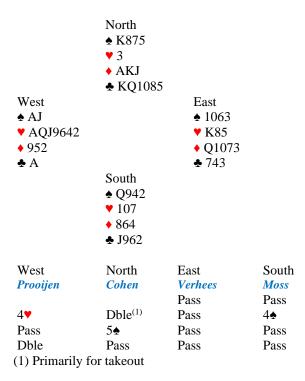
Board 8: Dealer East: Nil vulnerable



West's hand is very strong for a pre-empt, but in third or fourth seat, a pre-empt at game-level can be strong. One who makes such a bid is estimating or gambling that there is no slam their way. Here, slam could be possible opposite as little as:

♦ 7654	or no play opposite as much as	♦ 765
♥ K853		♥ K85
•		♦ AK7
♣ 97432		♣ 7432

Board 8: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable



Note South's 4♠ despite the abysmally poor hand. West's double was aimed at penalties, but there's the problem with having opened 4♥. East could not believe West had such a powerful hand and ran to 5♥. North elected not to follow the maxim, 'The five-level belongs to the opponents' and bid on to 5♠. There was no doubt this time as to the intention of West's double.

West led the \clubsuit A and switched to the \blacktriangledown A, followed by the \spadesuit 5, taken by the \spadesuit A. South wanted to reach his hand to lead a spade from there and played the \clubsuit 8 to the \clubsuit 9. West ruffed with the \spadesuit J and reverted to the \spadesuit 2: jack – queen - four. East returned the \clubsuit 7 and West ruffed with the \spadesuit A. That was five tricks for the defence. Declarer had the rest, but that was +500 for East-West. Meanwhile, $5\blacktriangledown$ could be defeated as long as the defence plays a spade soon enough.

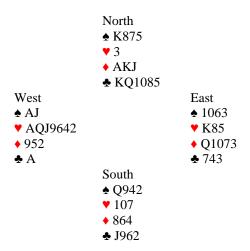
West	North	East	South
Greco	Padon	Hampson	Birman
		Pass	Pass
1 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	2♣	Pass	3♣
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Artificial,	16+ points		

I am at a loss to know what 4NT meant. The BBO record has no alerts or explanations. In any event, North-South did the right thing and the defence collected their three tricks. North led the \clubsuit K: three – two – ace. West played \blacktriangledown Q: three – five – seven and \blacktriangledown J: \clubsuit 8 – eight – ten. Then came the \spadesuit 5: king – three – six. What next?

North switched to the $\clubsuit 5$. If declarer happened to have $\spadesuit A$ -Q, there would be time to try for a club trick when North came in with the $\spadesuit A$. It went $\clubsuit 5$: three – queen – ace. Declarer returned the $\spadesuit J$. North won and cashed the $\spadesuit A$ for one down, North-South +100 and 12 Imps to TULIN.

There should be no problem for the defence here. As North's 2♣ showed 5 clubs, South would either discourage clubs (attitude signals) or show an even number, clearly four (using count signals). Thus there would be no temptation for North to try a second club when in with the ◆K.

Board 8: Dealer East: Nil vulnerable



This was the auction when the deal was replayed in a BBO game:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

You can understand South's reluctance to bid 4♠ with such a moth-eaten collection. Sometimes passing will pay off. This was not one of those times.

With no inkling of South's hand, North led the A: seven – eight (discouraging) – five and switched to the K. It would have been wise for West to draw trumps with Q, J and then play a diamond. Instead, West played the J at trick 3. There was no punishment for the indiscretion (such as South having started with a singleton diamond). North took the K and played the Q. West ruffed, drew trumps and had 11 tricks for +690.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East: North-South vulnerable

West North East South Pass $1 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}$

What would you do as West with:

- **J**72
- **y** 92
- ♦ AKJ9876
- **♣** 10

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

Why is the letter W called 'double U' in English? Shouldn't it be called 'double V'?

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.