214. The magnificent seven

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East: North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3♦	4♠	?	

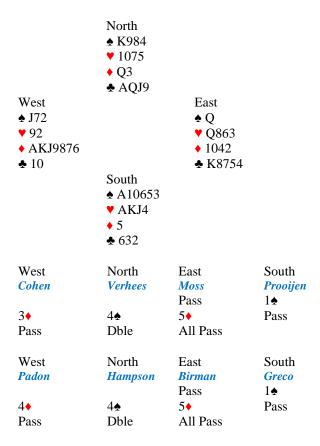
What would you do as East with:

- **♠** Q
- **Q**863
- **♦** 1042
- **♣** K8754

Have you made up your mind? If so, now consider what you would do as East if the bidding had gone like this: Pass : $1 \spadesuit : 4 \spadesuit : 4 \spadesuit$ to you. What would you do now?

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

Board 9: Dealer East: North-South vulnerable



Louk Verhees led the \$8, Geoff Hampson the \$3(!). It made no difference. With the \$A onside, declarer could always set up the \$K, ruff one spade in dummy and discard the other on the \$K. Both declarers lost a spade, two hearts and a club, two light, North-South +300, no swing.

Suppose you are playing weak jump-overcalls. You are at favourable vulnerability. Partner passes and your right-hand opponent opens 14. What would you do with:

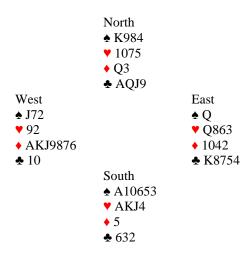
- ♣ J72♥ 92♦ AKJ987♣ 106
- This looks like a textbook WJO of 3♦, right?

If that is so, what would you do with:

J7292AKJ987610

Is this not one trick better? If the first hand was worth 3♦, then this one should be worth 4♦. The advantage of 4♦ is that it is more likely to persuade partner to sacrifice when it is right to do so.

Board 9: Dealer East: North-South vulnerable



This is what happened when the Spingold deal was replayed in a BBO game:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

West led A, K. South ruffed and played A, A and A: ten – queen – king. Back came the A, ace. South could run clubs, discarding the A, and endplay West with a spade. West precluded that option by ruffing the second club and playing a heart into South's K. That was ten tricks and +620 for North-South.

Problem for Tomorrow:

You are the dealer at unfavourable vulnerability. What do you do with:

♣ Q5♥ Q93◆ AQJ43♣ AQ5

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

A hundred years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Nowadays everyone has a car and only the rich own horses.

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.