

# 232. The defenders

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ KJ7652  
♥ AQJ85  
♦ --  
♣ A7

This is similar to the problem on page 1 of yesterday's column:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♣	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ AJ10432  
♥ 86  
♦ AK976  
♣ --

Yesterday's answer: When you bid 3♦, you showed 5+ spades and 4+ diamonds. Your hand is much freakier than that and most of the time it will be best to rebid 4♦ and ask partner to choose one of your suits.

The same applies to today's problem at the top of the page. When you rebid 2♥ you showed 5+ spades and 4+ hearts. Your 6-5 shape is much freakier than that and you should rebid 4♥, asking partner to choose one of your majors. That is what Dave Beauchamp (N) did in a match on BBO, all pass. This was the full deal:

	North	
	♠ KJ7652	
	♥ AQJ85	
	♦ --	
	♣ A7	
West		East
♠ 103		♠ AQ984
♥ 1093		♥ K42
♦ 964		♦ K108
♣ QJ532		♣ 86
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥ 76	
	♦ AQJ7532	
	♣ K1094	

Against North's 4♥, East led the ♣8. How do you fancy your chances as North? How would you play?

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	♥ AQJ85	
	♦ --	
	♣ A7	
West		East
♠ 103		♠ AQ984
♥ 1093		♥ K42
♦ 964		♦ K108
♣ QJ532		♣ 86
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥ 76	
	♦ AQJ7532	
	♣ K1094	

Contract: 4♥ by North. Lead: ♣8

Beauchamp (N) took the ♣8 lead with the ♣K, cashed the ♦A, discarding a spade, and discarded another spade on the ♦J, won by East, who switched to the ♥2: six – nine – jack. (Given East's spade holding, a trump lead initially looks attractive.)

South ruffed a low spade and discarded the remaining low spade on the ♦Q. This was now the position:

	North	
	♠ KJ	
	♥ AQ85	
	♦ --	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ 3		♠ AQ98
♥ 103		♥ K4
♦		♦
♣ QJ53		♣ 6
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥	
	♦ 7532	
	♣ 1094	

Declarer can get home from here by crossing to the ♣A and playing ♥A and a low heart to East's ♥K East wins but has only spades left and must give North a spade trick. North loses a spade, a heart and a diamond.

That is not what happened. In the ending above, declarer played another diamond from dummy: ♠3 – ♠J – ♥4. East played the ♠8: ♦3 – ♥3 – ♠K. West switched to the ♣Q: ace – six – four. When the ♥A dropped the missing trumps, declarer was home, losing a spade ruff, a diamond ruff and the ♦K, 10 tricks, +620.

When declarer led a winning diamond in the above ending, the defence missed their opportunity. West needed to ruff the diamond. If North over-ruffs, East can win with the ♥K and exit with a club or a heart and await two spade tricks. If North discards the ♠J instead, West plays a spade. East wins and can play a spade or the ♣6 and collect the ♥K later as the fourth trick for the defence.

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	North	
	♠ KJ7652	
	♥ AQJ85	
	♦ --	
	♣ A7	
West		East
♠ 103		♠ AQ984
♥ 1093		♥ K42
♦ 964		♦ K108
♣ QJ532		♣ 86
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥ 76	
	♦ AQJ7532	
	♣ K1094	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, South was in 3NT.

Ian Thomson (W) led the ♣2 (attitude lead: low = like): seven – eight – ten. Declarer played the ♥6: three (reverse Smith Peter: ‘I like clubs’) – queen – king. Matt Mullamphy (E) returned the ♥4, stranding declarer in dummy. (A club return would have had the same effect, as it happens.) Declarer cashed the hearts, East discarding ♦10 and ♣6, West the ♦6 and ♣Q. Next came the ♣A: ♦8 – ♣4 – ♣3. This was the position:

	North	
	♠ KJ7652	
	♥	
	♦ --	
	♣	
West		East
♠ 103		♠ AQ984
♥		♥
♦ 94		♦ K
♣ J5		♣
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥	
	♦ AQJ5	
	♣ K9	

Declarer played the ♠7: four – ♦5 – ♠10. West returned the ♠3: five – eight – ♣9. East exited with the ♠9, won by the ♠J and East’s ♠A-Q collected the next two tricks, one down, East-West +100 and +12 Imps.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

What would you lead as West from:

West	North	East	South	♠ 1094
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥	♥ 2
2♠	3♥	Pass	3NT	♦ AK106
Pass	4♥	All Pass		♣ J7643

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

*Grammar humour: Unsure where to go, an Oxford comma walks into a bar, where it spends the evening watching the television getting drunk and smoking cigars.*