

# 235. Diamond miners

By Ron Klinger

This cryptic crossword clue from the *Sunday Times* comes from Neville Moses of Sydney:

*In what game does the winner never take the lead?" (7)(8)*

(Answer on page 2)

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	?

What would you do now as South with:

♠ 7  
♥ K42  
♦ AKQ654  
♣ AQJ

You need to apply whatever methods your partnership has to force to game and, if possible, show strong diamonds as well. Over 1NT, some might bid 2♦ (artificial, forcing to game) and repeat the diamonds on the next round. Others might jump to 3♦ over 1NT to show that. Susan Humphries (S), playing with Jessica Brake (N), both members of the current Australian Women's Team, found an even more descriptive rebid.

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AK62	
	♥ AQ109	
	♦ J2	
	♣ 1098	
West		East
♠ Q1084		♠ J953
♥ J86		♥ 753
♦ 97		♦ 1083
♣ K765		♣ 432
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ K42	
	♦ AKQ654	
	♣ AQJ	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Brake</i>		<i>Humphries</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Splinter, 0-1 spades, long diamonds

(2) Sets diamonds as trumps

(3) Cue-bid, first- or second-round heart control

South knew North's 4♥ cue-bid showed the ♥A since North had rebid 1NT and South was looking at the ♥K. West led the ♠4, taken by the ♠A. Declarer drew trumps and made 13 tricks when the ♥J appeared. The ♣J went on the ♠K and the ♣Q on the thirteenth heart, North-South +940.

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AK62	
	♥ AQ109	
	♦ J2	
	♣ 1098	
West		East
♠ Q1084		♠ J953
♥ J86		♥ 753
♦ 97		♦ 1083
♣ K765		♣ 432
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ K42	
	♦ AKQ654	
	♣ AQJ	

In the Spingold with **PIEDRA** North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Artificial, forcing to game

(2) Cue-bid, diamonds set as trumps

West led a spade, 13 tricks, North-South +940.

With **FIREMAN** North-South and East-West passing throughout, it went 1NT : 2NT (transfer to diamonds), 3♣ (not keen on diamonds) : 3♠ (0-1 spade), 3NT : 4♣ (cue, setting diamonds), 4♦ (waiting) : 4NT, 5♥ (2 key cards, no ♦Q) : 5♠ (asking for the ♦Q), 6♦ ('I do not have it.') : 6NT, all pass.

East led the ♥5. Declarer cashed the diamonds and the hearts, 13 tricks, +1020 and +2 Imps.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
1♠	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ J532  
♥ K1082  
♦ KJ1097  
♣ --

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

*A hyphenated word and a non-hyphenated word walk into a bar and the bartender nearly chokes on the irony.*

*Answer to cryptic crossword clue (see page 1): Russian Roulette.*