## 238. In love with diamonds

## By Ron Klinger

With both sides vulnerable, East deals and passes. What would you do as South with:

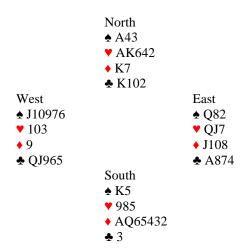
- **♦** K5 **♥** 985 **♦** AQ65432 **♣** 3
- For most players, this would be fine for a 3♦ opening. For those of a timid nature, perhaps a weak two in diamonds, if that is available. In the Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams), two Souths opened 1♦.

The hand does not meet Marty Bergen's Rule of 20 Test: Add HCP to the number of cards in your two longest suits – If the total is 20+, you have a 1-opening in first or second seat. Here you have 9 HCP and 10 cards in your two long suits, total 19.

It also does not qualify for the extension, the Rule of 22: Add HCP + two longest suits + quick tricks – if the total is 22+, you have a 1-opening in first or second seat. Here 9 HCP + 10 cards in the long suits and 2 quick tricks = 21. You might fudge the 22 down to  $21\frac{1}{2}$ , but down to 21 only at favourable vulnerability.

The full deal arose in the semi-finals of the 2015 World Teams.

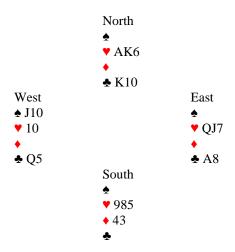
Board 45: Dealer East: Both vulnerable



For USA2, Joel Wooldridge (S) did rather well on this deal after this auction:

West	North	East	South			
Nystrom	Hurd	<b>Upmark</b>	Wooldridge			
		Pass	2♦			
Pass	2♥	Pass	<b>4♣</b> <sup>(1)</sup>			
Pass	<b>4</b> ♦	Pass	<b>6♦</b>			
Pass	Pass	Pass				
(1) Heart support, 0-1 club						

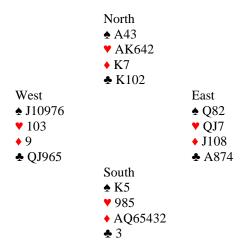
West led  $\clubsuit9$ . To succeed legitimately South needs to win trick 1 with the  $\clubsuit$ K. He took it with the  $\clubsuit$ A but made  $6 \spadesuit$ . With the  $\clubsuit$ A over the king, it looks as though declarer must lose a club and a heart, but watch what happened. After  $\spadesuit$ K,  $\spadesuit$ A ( $\clubsuit$ 9 from West),  $\spadesuit$ Q ( $\spadesuit$ 7 from West,  $\blacktriangledown$ 2 from dummy), South played a fourth diamond:  $\clubsuit6 - \blacktriangledown4 - \clubsuit4$ . Next came the  $\clubsuit3$ : jack – two – seven. A heart return at this point will beat the slam, but West returned the  $\clubsuit$ 6: three – queen – king. South played the  $\spadesuit$ 5:  $\blacktriangledown$ 3 –  $\spadesuit$ 4 –  $\spadesuit$ 8. These cards remained:



Wooldridge continued with the ◆4: spade ten, heart six from dummy and East was finished! If he threw a club, South could cross to dummy with a heart and play the ♣10, ace, ruff, to set up the club king. Given South's 4♣ splinter, maybe that was East's best move. However, he discarded the ▼7. South played ▼A, ▼K and had the last three tricks in his hand, +1370!

"Did you say he played it 'rather well', Klinger? "'Rather well'?? It was bloody marvellous!" Well, some adhere to a tradition to praise another only half his real worth. Any more would be considered flattery.

Board 45: Dealer East: Both vulnerable



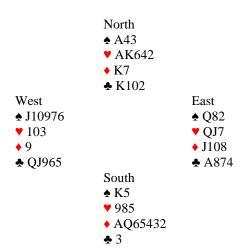
At the other table, Sweden's North-South had a misunderstanding. They bid  $1 \blacklozenge$  (note the 1-opening):  $1 \blacktriangledown$ ,  $2 \blacktriangledown$ : 2NT,  $3 \spadesuit$ :  $3 \blacktriangledown$ , Pass. Clearly North thought  $3 \blacktriangledown$  was forcing, setting the suit and starting slam proceedings. South did not share that view. Declarer made ten tricks, +170, but 15 Imps to USA1.

In the other match:

## England North-South:

	West No'sadzki	North Forrester	East <i>Kalita</i>	South Robson	East led the ♣A and North made 11 tricks, +650.		
	110 suuzki	Torrester	Pass	1 <b>♦</b> <sup>(1)</sup>			
			r ass	1 🗸			
	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦			
	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥			
	Pass	4NT	Pass	5 <b>♣</b> <sup>(2)</sup>			
	Pass	5 <b>\( \big(3) \)</b>	Pass	<b>5</b> ♥ <sup>(4)</sup>			
	Pass	Pass	Pass				
(1) Maybe the three hearts inhibited 3♦?							
(2) 1 or 4 key cards							
(3) Do you have the ♥Q?							
	(4) No.						

Board 45: Dealer East: Both vulnerable



At the other table, with Poland North-South:

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Klukowski	Gold	Gawrys
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	$2NT^{(1)}$
Pass	3 <b>♣</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Transf	er to diamond	S	

(2) Good hand for diamonds

North won the ♥Q lead and played seven rounds of diamonds. West discarded enough clubs that declarer could afford to play a club to set up a club trick for +690, 1 Imp to Poland.

Women's Teams: England and France both bid Pass: 3♦: Pass: 3NT, all pass. France made 11 tricks, England 12, 1 Imp to England. Netherlands had the same auction, 12 tricks, +690. USA2's South passed. North opened a strong 1♣ and South ended in 4♥, +650 but 1 Imp to Netherlands.

Seniors' Teams: Poland's South passed. West opened 2♠, weak, North doubled, East passed, South bid 5♠, all pass. South made 12 tricks after ♠Q lead winning, and the ♠5: ten – ace – ♠2, North-South +620. Sweden's South opened 3♠, North 3NT, all pass. East led the ♥Q, winning, and the ♥J. North made 12 tricks for +690 and 1 Imp to Sweden.

USA1 North-South played in 3NT by North. Lead: ♥Q, ducked. 12 tricks, North-South +690. At the other table, USA2's South opened 1♦ and North-South reached 6♦. Declarer won the ♠J lead with the ♠K, drew trumps and played the ♠3: queen – king – ace, one light, East-West +100 and +13 Imps.

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

With neither side vulnerable, East deals and passes. What would you as South with:

- **▲** AJ9876
- **♥** A86
- **♦** 94
- **♣** 73

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

Wishing you whatever does not offend you these days.