

## 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 21½, 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

	North	
	♠ A43	
	♥ AK642	
	♦ K7	
	♣ K102	
West		East
♠ J10976		♠ Q82
♥ 103		♥ QJ7
♦ 9		♦ J108
♣ QJ965		♣ A874
	South	
	♠ K5	
	♥ 985	
	♦ AQ65432	
	♣ 3	

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
		Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Heart support, 0-1 club

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

	North	
	♠	
	♥ AK6	
	♦	
	♣ K10	
West		East
♠ J10		♠
♥ 10		♥ QJ7
♦		♦
♣ Q5		♣ A8
	South	
	♠	
	♥ 985	
	♦ 43	
	♣	

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.

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At the other table, Sweden's North-South had a misunderstanding. They bid 1♦ (note the 1-opening) : 1♥, 2♥ : 2NT, 3♦ : 3♥, Pass. Clearly North thought 3♥ 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	North	East	South
	<i>No'sadzki</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>
			Pass	1♦ <sup>(1)</sup>
	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ <sup>(2)</sup>
	Pass	5♦ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>(4)</sup>
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ♣A and North made 11 tricks, +650.

- (1) Maybe the three hearts inhibited 3♦?
- (2) 1 or 4 key cards
- (3) Do you have the ♥Q?
- (4) No.

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	♥ 985	
	♦ AQ65432	
	♣ 3	

At the other table, with Poland North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	3♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Transfer to diamonds

(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.*