

241. Freak occurrence

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | 1♦ |
| 5♠ | Pass | 6♣ | Dble |
| 6♠ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

What would you lead as North from:

♠ 76
♥ J10987543
♦ 92
♣ 3

Make up your mind before moving on to this, yesterday's problem:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------------------|
| | | | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 4♣ ⁽¹⁾ |
| 4♠ | Pass | 6♣ | 6♦ |
| 6♠ | Pass | 7♣ | ? |

(1) Splinter, 4 hearts, 0-1 club, strong hand

What would you do as South with:

♠ --
♥ AQ62
♦ AQJ108765
♣ J

If you choose to pass or double, what do you lead?

Both problems arose on the same deal, this huge freak from the 1997 Transnational Open Teams:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ 76 | |
| | ♥ J10987543 | |
| | ♦ 92 | |
| | ♣ 3 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ AKQJ1098543 | | ♠ 2 |
| ♥ K | | ♥ -- |
| ♦ K3 | | ♦ 4 |
| ♣ -- | | ♣ AKQ109876542 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ -- | |
| | ♥ AQ62 | |
| | ♦ AQJ108765 | |
| | ♣ J | |

The tamest hand is North's 2-8-2-1. South has a 0-4-8-1, West a 10-1-2-0 and East a 1-0-1-11! After the auction above, a trump lead will take 6♣ two down. After a heart lead, declarer ruffs and can play a diamond or a club winner to make 12 tricks. After a club lead, declarer pitches the ♥K on a high club and plays a diamond or pitches a diamond on a top club, ruffs a club high and ruffs the ♥K. North actually led the ♦9. South won and a trump return will beat 6♠, but South had no trump to lead, East-West +1210.

After the auction in yesterday's problem as above, the ♦A lead will beat 7♣, but it makes on the ♥A lead. At the other table, British player Su Burn (S) took out insurance over 7♣ and bid 7♦, doubled by West, all pass. With no club, West began with ♠A. South ruffed and played ♦A, ♥A, ♦5. West won ♦K, but as West had no club to lead, South had the rest, one off, N-S -100 but +15 Imps. How could West know that East wanted a heart ruff?

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------------------|
| | | | 2♣ ⁽¹⁾ |

3♦⁽²⁾ ?

(1) Artificial, very strong, almost always game-forcing

(2) Weak jump-overcall

What would you do as North with:

♠ 854

♥ 72

♦ --

♣ AQJ108432

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

Change your thoughts and you change your world. (Norman Vincent Peale)