

250. The bashful and the bidders

By Ron Klinger

Teams: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	?	

What would you do as East with:

♠ J74
♥ A
♦ AQ
♣ Q1087652

This was yesterday's problem:

Teams: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ K10852
♥ 105
♦ J654
♣ KJ

In one match, both Wests passed. In the other, both Wests overcalled 1♠. The negative factors for bidding are you have only 8 HCP and the hand is semi-balanced. The positive features for bidding are the vulnerability is favourable, the spades are reasonable (they just meet the suit-quality requirement of 7 for a one-level overcall), you have an 8-loser hand (typical for a minimum 1-level overcall), you own the top suit (a sacrifice might be appropriate) and you have a semi-balanced hand (better than if it were balanced).

Today's deal comes from the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams). This was the full deal for the problem above. Which action do you think turned out to be the winner?

Board 48: Dealer South : North-South Vulnerable		Sweden East-West:			
	North	West	North	East	South
	♠ 93	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>W'dridge</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
	♥ 632				1♥
	♦ K9732	Pass	2♥	3♣	4♥
	♣ A43	Pass	Pass	Pass	
West		USA2 East-West:			
♠ K10852		West	North	East	South
♥ 105		<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>
♦ J654					1♥
♣ KJ		Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ AQ6				
	♥ KQJ9874				
	♦ 108				
	♣ 9				

Given the predilection for light openings and lighter overcalls, it is more than a little surprising that neither West ventured 1♠, especially at the vulnerability. Lo and behold, 4♠ is on for East-West and so is 5♣, unless South is inspired enough to lead a low spade and give North a spade ruff later. Both Wests led the ♣K against 4♥ and declarer eventually lost a spade, a heart and two diamonds, East-West +100, no swing.

Board 48: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

North			
♠ 93			
♥ 632			
♦ K9732			
♣ A43			
West		East	
♠ K10852		♠ J74	
♥ 105		♥ A	
♦ J654		♦ AQ	
♣ KJ		♣ Q1087652	
South			
♠ AQ6			
♥ KQJ9874			
♦ 108			
♣ 9			

The Wests in the other match were not as shy:

Poland East-West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>No'sadski</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
			1♥
1♠	2♥	2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♦ ⁽²⁾
3♠	4♣ ⁽³⁾	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong spade raise

(2) Game interest, seeking help in diamonds

(3) Diamond help and club control

Jacek Kalita led the ♣K and declarer lost the same four tricks as in the other match, East-West +100.

At the other table, East-West did reach 4♠, but it did not end there:

England East-West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
			1♥
1♠	2♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♠2, won by the queen. The ♥K lost to the ace and declarer lost two diamonds later, one off, East-West +200, 3 Imps to England. Had South passed 4♠, that would almost certainly have made for East-West +420 and 8 Imps to England.

So, reverting to the first problem on page 1, what was your choice of action after 1♥ : 1♠ : 2♥? Here one East bid a conventional 2NT, the other bid 4♠. If you intend to go to 4♠ anyway, you could choose a fit-showing jump of 4♣. Had David Bakhshi done that, the costly spade lead could have been avoided and East-West might have notched up 500 and +9 Imps.

Board 48: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

North	
♠ 93	
♥ 632	
♦ K9732	
♣ A43	
West	East
♠ K10852	♠ J74
♥ 105	♥ A
♦ J654	♦ AQ
♣ KJ	♣ Q1087652
South	
♠ AQ6	
♥ KQJ9874	
♦ 108	
♣ 9	

Women's Semi-finals: Netherlands vs USA2: Both Wests overcalled 1♠, both East-Wests reached 4♠, neither East bid 4♣ fit-showing and both Souths saved in 5♥ doubled, one off on the ♠2 lead, no swing. England North-South: 1♥ : 1♠ : 2♥ : 3♥ (spade raise), 4♥, all pass, ♠2 lead, +620. France North-South: 1♥ : 1♠ : 2♥ : 3♣, 4♥ : Pass : Pass : 4♠, Pass : Pass : Double, all pass. England's declarer did not find the line to make ten tricks and finished two down, -300, but +8 Imps.

Seniors' Semi-finals: Poland vs Sweden and USA1 vs USA2: All four tables effectively bid 1♥ : 1♠ : 2♥ : 4♠, 5♥ : Pass : Pass : Double, all pass. All four Wests led a low spade. Three Souths were one off, -200, no swing in Poland vs Sweden. USA1's declarer took an offbeat line, not playing trumps, and was over-ruffed on the third club for two down, -500 and 7 Imps to USA2

Problem for Tomorrow:

Teams: Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	4♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

What would you lead as North from:

♠ AK75
♥ K74
♦ 42
♣ Q653

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

Why do Norwegian ships have bar codes? So you can scan da navy in.