

254. Partner's honour, not Prizzi's

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

North

♠ 102

♥ J982

♦ AJ1062

♣ K6

East

♠ AJ63

♥ 1064

♦ K93

♣ AQ4

West

North

East

South

1NT⁽¹⁾

Pass

2♣⁽²⁾

Pass

2♥

Pass

4♥

All Pass

(1) 15-17

(2) Simple Stayman

West leads the ♠4. Plan the defence for East.

Question 1: What do you make of West's ♠4 lead?

Answer: It is West's lowest spade.

Question 2: What does that tell you?

Answer: Playing standard methods, top from doubletons, M.U.D., the bottom-card lead promises an honour.

Question 3: Which honour, the ♠Q or the ♠K?

Answer: Count the points: South 15-17, North 9, East 14, total 38-40. Since West has an honour card, the total must be 38 and West's honour will be the ♠Q. How does that help you in the defence?

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

North

♠ 102

♥ J982

♦ AJ1062

♣ K6

West

♠ Q974

♥ 75

♦ 874

♣ 10832

East

♠ AJ63

♥ 1064

♦ K93

♣ AQ4

South

♠ K85

♥ AKQ3

♦ Q5

♣ J975

The deal comes from a quiz in a 2003 issue of *Polish Bridge Magazine*. If you take the ♠A at trick 1 and return a spade, South wins, draws trumps ending in hand and takes the losing diamond finesse. With the ♣K protected from attack by East, declarer loses only one spade, one diamond and one club. Whatever East returns, South can discard three clubs on dummy's diamonds.

If you have counted dummy's points at the outset and thus placed the ♠Q with West, you can find the killing defence: play the ♠J at trick 1. South wins, draws trumps and runs the ♦Q, losing to the ♦K. East returns the ♠3. West wins and should now come up with the winning switch to a club. What else could West sensibly do?

Problem for Tomorrow:

With only East-West vulnerable, East deals and passes. South opens 1♥, 5+ hearts. West passes. What would you do as North with:

♠ 10865

♥ 942

♦ AJ3

♣ A54

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

Do you get angry? Embarrassed? Offended? Upset? You have choices. You can choose to be angry / embarrassed / offended / upset or choose not to be. So, if the choice is yours, who is to blame? No one forced that choice on you.

A great gift: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.
