

277. Mark his words

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

North
♠ AJ952
♥ QJ53
♦ K10
♣ AK

South
♠ K
♥ A982
♦ 98752
♣ J85

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣ ⁽¹⁾ | Pass | 1♥ ⁽²⁾ |
| Pass | 2♦ ⁽³⁾ | Pass | 2♥ ⁽⁴⁾ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

(1) Polish Club: Weak no-trump OR 15+ points, 5+ clubs OR 18+ points, any shape

(2) 4+ hearts, 7+ points

(3) 18+ points, 3+ hearts

(4) 4 hearts only and minimum values for 1♥

West leads the ♦Q: king – ace – five. East switches to the ♥10. Plan the play.

For the background to today's deal, which comes from the final of ALT IV Invitational, see yesterday's ABF Daily Problem (#276).

RR's Brilliant Duck by Mark Horton

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

| North | |
|---------|--|
| ♠ AJ952 | |
| ♥ QJ53 | |
| ♦ K10 | |
| ♣ AK | |

| West | East |
|---------|----------|
| ♠ Q8643 | ♠ 107 |
| ♥ K764 | ♥ 10 |
| ♦ Q | ♦ AJ643 |
| ♣ Q32 | ♣ 109764 |

| South |
|---------|
| ♠ K |
| ♥ A982 |
| ♦ 98752 |
| ♣ J85 |

After ♦Q, king, ace, and ♥10 switch, South ducked and West won with the ♥K. West returned a trump: five – ♦3 – ♥8. South continued with the ♦2. West ruffed and played another trump. East discarded a club and South won with the ♥A. South unblocked the ♠K, crossed to the ♣A, cashed ♠A and played the ♠J. East discarded and South ruffed. The result was two down. East-West +200. Had South discarded a club or a diamond on the ♠J, the result would have been only one down.

Mark Horton: 'There was a route to ten tricks! Declarer must win the ten of hearts with his ace, unblock the spade king, go to dummy with a club, cash the ace of spades, ruff a spade, get back with a club, ruff another spade, ruff a club and ruff a spade. That adds up to nine tricks and the queen-jack of hearts represent the game-going trick. Even if East has a doubleton heart, rising with the ace and cross-ruffing will result in ten tricks.'

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>North</p> <p>♠ AJ952</p> <p>♥ QJ53</p> <p>♦ K10</p> <p>♣ AK</p> | <p>East</p> <p>♠ 107</p> <p>♥ 10</p> <p>♦ AJ643</p> <p>♣ 109764</p> |
| <p>West</p> <p>♠ Q8643</p> <p>♥ K764</p> <p>♦ Q</p> <p>♣ Q32</p> | <p>South</p> <p>♠ K</p> <p>♥ A982</p> <p>♦ 98752</p> <p>♣ J85</p> |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

Nice to have a natural auction. East led the ♣9, taken by the ♣A. North crossed to the ♠K, returned to the ♣K, cashed ♠A and played ♠5: ♥10 – ♥A – ♠6. After ♦5: queen – king – ace East switched to a club: jack – queen – ♥3. Then came the ♦10: four – seven – ♥6. West cashed the ♥K and exited with the ♥7. North was held to 9 tricks, one light, –100 but +3 Imps.

Mark Horton: ‘The Rueful Rabbi would have made four hearts! Having crossed to dummy with a spade, RR plays a diamond and when East’s ♦Q appears, RR, as attentive as ever, follows with the ten! West tries exiting with a trump, but RR plays the queen, ruffs a spade, crosses to the ♣K, ruffs a spade, ruffs a club and ruffs a spade, eventually arriving at a tenth trick with the jack of hearts.’

Problem for Tomorrow:

Teams: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>North</p> <p>♠ A107</p> <p>♥ 42</p> <p>♦ AQJ10</p> <p>♣ QJ103</p> | <p>South</p> <p>♠ QJ9854</p> <p>♥ 53</p> <p>♦ K95</p> <p>♣ A5</p> |
|--|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 3♥ ⁽¹⁾ | 4♠ | All Pass | |

(1) Pre-emptive, 0-5 points, 4+ hearts

West leads the ♥Q. East wins with the ♥K and switches to the ♦8. Plan the play.

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

Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. They seem to have left out morons.