

280. A ruff time with Tim

By Ron Klinger

ABF Daily Columns 278 and 279 featured deals from Tim Bourke of Canberra, who provides them for each issue of the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin. Earlier this year the number of deals he has submitted passed the one thousand mark. The source of today's deal is also Tim Bourke.

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North

♠ J
♥ KQ96
♦ A8762
♣ AKJ

South

♠ KQ97643
♥ 2
♦ 5
♣ Q1082

West	North	East	South
		1♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West leads ♦3: ace – king – five. Declarer plays ♠J: ace – three – five. East plays ♦Q. Plan the play.

North

♠ J
♥ KQ96
♦ A8762
♣ AKJ

West

♠ 10852
♥ J10753
♦ 3
♣ 643

East

♠ A
♥ A84
♦ KQJ1094
♣ 975

South

♠ KQ97643
♥ 2
♦ 5
♣ Q1082

Tim: 'This deal came up in a team game. The lead was the same at both tables, the three of diamonds. Both declarers took it with dummy's ace and led the jack of trumps. After winning the ace of trumps, both East players continued with a high diamond.'

'At the first table, declarer recognized that the opening lead was either the third-highest or a singleton. As the former was more likely, declarer ruffed the diamond with the nine of trumps. Alas, West over-ruffed with the ten and led a heart to the king and ace. A third round of diamonds gave declarer no winning option: no matter whether South ruffed high or low, the eight of trumps would be the setting trick.'

'At the second table, declarer came to the same conclusion about the diamond suit, but instead of ruffing the second round of diamonds, he threw his losing heart.'

This loser-on-loser play cut the communications between West and East. West could not reach East later for a trump promotion and West made only one trump trick, not two. South ruffed the next diamond with the ♠9. West over-ruffed with the ♠10 and switched to the ♣6: jack – nine (high-hate) – queen. South drew the rest of the trumps and had ten tricks. South lost only a diamond and two trump tricks.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

North
♠ J874
♥ A2
♦ Q86
♣ 10732

South
♠ AK532
♥ K97
♦ 5
♣ AK95

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♦J: six – three (low-like) – five. West continues with the ♦10: eight – four – ♠2. Declarer plays the ♠A: ♦2 – ♠4 – ♠6. Plan the play.

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

Sometimes the thoughts in my head get bored being inside and go for a stroll out of my mouth. This rarely turns out to be a good thing..