

281. Ruffing to success with Tim

By Ron Klinger

The previous three Daily Columns featured deals from Tim Bourke of Canberra, who provides them for each issue of the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin. The source of today's deal is also Tim Bourke.

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.

This was the full deal:

North

♠ J874

♥ A2

♦ Q86

♣ 10732

West

♠ --

♥ J8653

♦ J10972

♣ Q84

East

♠ Q1096

♥ Q104

♦ AK43

♣ J6

South

♠ AK532

♥ K97

♦ 5

♣ AK95

Tim: 'Declarer continued by playing a low heart to dummy's ace to ruff dummy's last diamond. Next came the ace of clubs, followed by the king of hearts. After ruffing the nine of hearts successfully in dummy, declarer led a low club to the jack and king.' This was the position:

North
 ♠ J8
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣ 107

West East
 ♠ -- ♠ Q109
 ♥ J8 ♥
 ♦ 9 ♦ A
 ♣ Q ♣

South
 ♠ K5
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣ 95

Tim: 'Declarer exited with a club to West's queen and East threw the ♦A. West exited with a heart and declarer threw dummy's club, while East had to ruff. As declarer threw a club under East's ♣9, East was endplayed and had to lead away from the queen of trumps. Declarer claimed the last two tricks and the contract, making five trumps, two hearts, a heart ruff and two clubs.'

'You should note that East could not have profited from ruffing the third round of clubs. In that case, all declarer would have lost would have been two trumps and one diamond.'

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

North
 ♠ Q1093
 ♥ AJ102
 ♦ A76
 ♣ 104

South
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ Q97653
 ♦ K2
 ♣ K85

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

(1) Strong heart raise

(2) Very strong invitation (i.e., whatever you do, if it goes wrong, it won't be my fault)

West leads the ♦5. Plan the play.

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

I named my dog 'Six Miles' so that I can tell people that I walk 6 miles every day.