

# 295. On the level

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	4♠	5♥
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ 4  
♥ K765  
♦ KQJ953  
♣ K2

What would you do if North had opened 1NT (11-13 points)?

There is a natural temptation to double. Partner figures to have some values in spades. You are almost sure to have a heart winner. You have potential winners in diamonds and clubs. If partner has the ♠A, declarer could be two or three down.

The opponents, vulnerable vs not vulnerable, are bidding beyond their high card means. Aye, there's the rub. What that almost always means is that they have excellent shape as compensation. Yes, by doubling, you might collect 200 or even 500 against some opponents, but if you trust your opponents, you might be the one paying the price. You were not expecting to make game your way, so the opponents are not stealing from you.

This was yesterday's problem:

You, East, hold:

♠ J10986532  
♥ 3  
♦ 72  
♣ 94

What would you do if North opened (a) 1♦? (b) 1NT (11-14)?

That East hand looks skimpy for a jump to 4♠, even at favourable vulnerability and especially after a weak 1NT opening, but 4♠ was the bid chosen at both tables. Both Souths bid 5♥, both Wests doubled, all pass.

Today's deal comes from the final of the 2020 Australian Mixed Team Selection ([see next page](#)).

Board 16: Dealer North : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AQ7	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ A1084	
	♣ 10763	
West		East
♠ 4		♠ J10986532
♥ K765		♥ 3
♦ KQJ953		♦ 72
♣ K2		♣ 94
	South	
	♠ K	
	♥ AJ9842	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AQJ85	

Both Wests led the ♠4. South won with the ♠K and played a low heart. Both Wests scored a trick with the ♥K. Both made a trick with the ♣K. That was mildly lucky. Swap the minor suit aces and West makes no club trick. Both declarers made 11 tricks, +850, no swing. Beware of doubling opponents who are at adverse vulnerability.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Do you have a 5-card major?

(2) No.

(3) I have four hearts, not four spades. Pick the contract.

What would you lead as West from:

♠ KJ92  
♥ 84  
♦ 7643  
♣ Q43

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

*What you don't want to hear from a steward as you are boarding a plane: "You are so lucky. You have the whole plane to yourself. The large group going to the Psychic Convention cancelled at the last minute."*