

297. Continuing after a weak two

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	?		2♥ ⁽¹⁾

(1) 6 hearts, 6-10 points

What would you do as North with:

♠ Q1093
♥ A
♦ K87
♣ AK985

When partner opens a weak two and you have support and some ruffing potential, using the Losing Trick Count is a good idea. When you have no ruffing value, you should count the certain and possible tricks in your own hand and add them to partner's possible winners. A minimum weak two usually has five tricks, a maximum can have six tricks.

Here you bring partner, three sure tricks HA, CA, CK, a 50% chance of a trick in diamonds and a bit extra for the spades headed by the Q-10-9. It would be reasonable to invite game, probably via some 2NT Convention asking about partner's strength.

Today's deal comes from the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Knockout Teams), Round of 16, Session 3.

Board 34: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North	
♠ Q1093	
♥ A	
♦ K87	
♣ AK985	
West	East
♠ AJ842	♠ K7
♥ 64	♥ K753
♦ J9	♦ Q643
♣ J1073	♣ Q62
South	
♠ 65	
♥ QJ10982	
♦ A1052	
♣ 4	

At one table, it went Pass : 2H : Pass : 4H, all pass. West led the CJ, won by the CA. South cashed the HA, CK, discarding a spade, crossed to the DA and knocked out the HK. South lost a spade, a heart and a diamond, +620. North was lucky that South's hearts had such excellent suit quality.

At the other table it went Pass : 2H : Pass : 2NT (inquiry), Pass : 3D (medium strength) : Pass : 4H, all pass. West led the CJ and the play went the same way for 10 tricks, +620, no swing. The diamond layout (J-9 doubleton) made it easy for declarer to holding the diamonds to just one loser.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2S ⁽¹⁾	?

(1) 6 spades, 5-10 points

What would you do as South with:

♠ --

♥ K7

♦ AKQ108532

♣ A104

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

'I'm all in favour of keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of fools. Let's start with typewriters.'
(Frank Lloyd Wright, 1868-1959)