

301. Rescue operations

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	Rdbl ⁽³⁾
Pass	?		

(1) Natural, strong

(2) Penalties

(3) SOS redouble, for rescue

What would you do as North with:

♠ 1098542
♥ A873
♦ 983
♣ --

Today's deal comes from the semi-finals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams):

Board 73: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 1098542	
	♥ A873	
	♦ 983	
	♣ --	
West		East
♠ J3		♠ AKQ76
♥ KQ94		♥ 105
♦ Q10		♦ 65
♣ AJ985		♣ Q642
	South	
	♠ --	
	♥ J62	
	♦ AKJ742	
	♣ K1073	

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	?

(1) Natural, strong

(2) Penalties

What would you do with the South hand?

North's 1♠ overall was no thing of beauty – the other three Norths in the Bermuda Bowl passed – but it seems that for some players, anything goes at favourable vulnerability. You would also not describe South's 2NT advance as mainstream but ultimately no damage was done.

In the auction immediately above, South might have bid 4♦, but that might not have been the best spot. Knowing partner's proclivities at this vulnerability, South redoubled for rescue. If partner actually had excellent spades, North could pass.

In the auction at the top of the page, after South's SOS redouble, North might have run to 4♥. That would not have been the best spot for the partnership and would very likely have attracted a penalty double by West. Instead, North arranged to ask South to choose the best spot. How could North do that?

Board 73: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

North	
♠	1098542
♥	A873
♦	983
♣	--
West	East
♠	J3
♥	KQ94
♦	Q10
♣	AJ985
South	
♠	--
♥	J62
♦	AKJ742
♣	K1073

USA2 North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Warne</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
1♦	1♠	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♠	Dble ⁽²⁾	Rdbl ⁽³⁾
Pass	4♣!	Dble ⁽²⁾	Pass
Pass	Rdbl ⁽³⁾	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Natural, strong

(2) Penalties

(3) SOS redouble, for rescue

West led the ♦10, won by the jack. After club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff, South played the ♥3: five – six – nine. West returned the ♦Q. South emerged with ten tricks, East-West +130.

At the other table, with Sweden North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>W'dridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>
1NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass

(1) 14-14 points

(2) Transfer to spades

Sylvan's double of 3NT was probably in the hope driving East-West into 4♠, where a bad break awaited. By showing values he hoped to encourage North to double 4♠, but none of that eventuated. North led the ♦3 against 3NT. South won with the ♦K and returned the ♦2! Perhaps he took the ♦3 as showing a diamond honour (and that would be the ♦Q since West had followed with the ♦10). More likely he feared that if he cashed the ♦A and North had started with Q-x-3, North might not unblock the ♦Q under the ♦A.

West won with the ♦Q and played ♠J, ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q, followed by ♣Q, king, ace, and the ♣J. That gave West seven tricks. The defence had the rest for two off, North-South +600 and 12 Imps to USA2.

England North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nowo'zki</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	3♦
Pass	4♦	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) For takeout

South led ♦A. ♦K and switched to the ♥2, king, ace. North returned the ♥3: ten – jack – queen. After ♠J and the ♠3, ten, ace, East played the ♣Q: three – nine – ♠2. North continued with the ♥8, ruffed with the ♠7. East made 5 spades and 2 hearts, three down, North-South +150.

Board 73: Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

North	
♠ 1098542	
♥ A873	
♦ 983	
♣ --	
West	East
♠ J3	♠ AKQ76
♥ KQ94	♥ 105
♦ Q10	♦ 65
♣ AJ985	♣ Q642
South	
♠ --	
♥ J62	
♦ AKJ742	
♣ K1073	

Poland North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Klukowicz</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥ ^(S)	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♥	4♦	All Pass	

(1) For takeout

West led the ♦10. South won with the ♦J, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and played the ♥3: five – six – nine. West returned the ♥4: seven – ten – jack. South drew trumps and had ten tricks, +130, but 1 Imp to England.

Although West's ♥4 at trick 6 gave South a cheap trick with the ♥J, South was always going to make 10 tricks. Suppose West had exited with the ♦Q instead. South could win and play the ♥J, queen, seven, and finesse the ♥8 last or cross to the ♥A, ruff a spade and exit with a heart to endplay West into giving South a club trick.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
4♥	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ 1096
♥ Q5
♦ K872
♣ A632

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

Is it possible for your brain to have too many tabs opened?