

302. Means test

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ KQJ54
♥ --
♦ J1096
♣ KJ85

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

Board 77: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 1096	
	♥ Q5	
	♦ K872	
	♣ A632	
West		East
♠ --		♠ A8732
♥ AKJ107432		♥ 986
♦ Q3		♦ A54
♣ Q97		♣ 104
	South	
	♠ KQJ54	
	♥ --	
	♦ J1096	
	♣ KJ85	

After Pass : 1♠ : 4♥ : Pass, Pass, John Kranyak, South for USA2, doubled. If North's double of 4♥ would be for takeout, South needs to double to protect partner's potential penalty pass. West passed and North bid 4♠. East doubled, all pass.

Kranyak ruffed the ♥A lead and played the ♦10: three – two – ace. East returned the ♥9 and South pitched the ♣5. West won and returned the ♦Q, taken by the king. The ♠10: two – five – ♥3 revealed the trump layout. Declarer played the ♦7 to the jack, cashed the ♣A, ♣K and exited with the third club. West played a heart, ruffed with the ♠9. South made 2 diamonds, 2 clubs, a heart ruff in dummy and 4 spades in hand for one off, East-West 200.

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
4♥	?		

What would you do with the North hand:

Board 77: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 1096	
	♥ Q5	
	♦ K872	
	♣ A632	
West		East
♠ --		♠ A8732
♥ AKJ107432		♥ 986
♦ Q3		♦ A54
♣ Q97		♣ 104
	South	
	♠ KQJ54	
	♥ --	
	♦ J1096	
	♣ KJ85	

With Sweden North-South:

West	North	East	South
<i>W'dridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
		Pass	1♠
4♥	Dble	Pass	4NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	5♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♠	Dble	All Pass

(1) Pick a minor

Whatever the nature of North's double – South took it as takeout – you can file it under 'Living beyond your means'. Had it started 1♠ : Pass, North would have bid 2♠. If that was all you were worth over 1♠, why bid 4♠ now? A good principle is not to let the opponents push you into bidding more than you intended bidding initially – see *The Power of Pass*.

The ♥K lead was ruffed and the ♠K was allowed to hold. South led the ♦J: queen – king – ace and back came the ♥6. South discarded and the ♥A won. West returned the ♦3 to the ten and South cashed the ♦9. After ♣K and a club to the ace, declarer played the ♠10, which was allowed to win. The result was three down, East-West +800, 12 Imps to USA2.

In the other match after Pass : 1♠ : 4♥ : Pass, Pass, Andrew Robson, South, doubled ('do what's right') and Tony Forrester, North, bid 4♠. East doubled all pass. The play went along similar lines to Kranyak's for one down, East-West +200.

At the other table Piotr Gawrys, South for Poland, passed out West's 4♥. David Bakhshi, West, had no trouble making eleven tricks for +650 and 10 Imps to England.

Problem for Tomorrow:

With both sides vulnerable, there are two passes to you. What would you do with:

♠ 84
 ♥ AJ965
 ♦ AJ97
 ♣ 107

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

Which do you think is longer: A microwave minute or a treadmill minute?