

# 313. Long to reign

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

North  
♠ K32  
♥ 104  
♦ 74  
♣ K97642

South  
♠ AQJ985  
♥ K52  
♦ K3  
♣ A3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | Pass  | Pass | 1♠    |
| 2♥   | 2♠    | Pass | 4♣    |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

## 1. Do you agree with South's 4♣ bid?

South has 17 HCP plus 1 point for each doubleton. Total: 19 points. North should have 6-9 points. Your combined total figures to be 25+ points and so bidding game is recommended.

A better approach: North has 6-9 points. At 3 points per trick (40 points divided by 13 tricks), North will usually produce two tricks, occasionally three. South has five losers. Five losers minus two winners = three losers and 13 tricks minus three losers = 10 tricks expected and so the 4♣ bid is fine.

West leads the ♣5. Plan the play.

*What is the first thing to do when dummy appears?*

Count dummy's HCP (6) and add your own (17), total 23. That means the opponents hold 17 HCP.

*Where will most of those points be?*

With West for the 2♥ overcall. West's 2♥ would normally be based on 10 HCP or more. Chances are West has a bit more than 10 HCP so maybe 11 West, 6 East or 12 West, 5 East and so on.

*How many tricks do you have on top?*

Eight, six spades and two clubs.

*What other potential for extra tricks do you have?*

The ♥K can become a trick if East has the ♥A and the ♦K can become a diamond trick if the ♦A is with East.

*Is it likely that East has one or both red aces?*

Two red aces? No way. That would mean West overcalled 2♥ vulnerable with 8 points. One red ace? Possible, but given the 2♥ overcall, it is likely that both red aces are with West.

*Any other prospect for extra tricks?*

The best hope for extra tricks is to set up the long club suit. That works if clubs are 3-2 and spades not 4-0.

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|         |          |         |
|---------|----------|---------|
|         | North    |         |
|         | ♠ K32    |         |
|         | ♥ 104    |         |
|         | ♦ 74     |         |
|         | ♣ K97642 |         |
| West    |          | East    |
| ♠ 10    |          | ♠ 764   |
| ♥ AQJ93 |          | ♥ 876   |
| ♦ AQ105 |          | ♦ J9862 |
| ♣ 1085  |          | ♣ QJ    |
|         | South    |         |
|         | ♠ AQJ985 |         |
|         | ♥ K52    |         |
|         | ♦ K3     |         |
|         | ♣ A3     |         |

West has led ♣5 (bottom from three cards headed by an honour, except top is right from 10-9-x, J-10-x, Q-J-x or K-Q-x). South should win with the ♣A, cash ♣A, ♠Q, play the ♣3 to the ♣K, ruff a club, play a spade to the ♠K to draw the last trump and play off the three club winners, discard the three hearts from hand. Then play a diamond to the king. You make 11 tricks as the cards lie and 12 if the ♦A is with East.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

|          |
|----------|
| North    |
| ♠ K106   |
| ♥ 432    |
| ♦ A6     |
| ♣ J10952 |
| South    |
| ♠ AQJ432 |
| ♥ K98    |
| ♦ 84     |
| ♣ AK     |

|      |       |      |       |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
|      | Pass  | Pass | 1♠    |
| Pass | 2♠    | Pass | 4♠    |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

1. Do you agree with South's 4♠ bid?
2. West leads the ♦Q. Plan the play.

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

*Warning label on capsule container: "You may experience pain in the hands and wrists, followed by irritability. That will be from trying to get the cap off."*