313. Long to reign

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North: Both vulnerable

North

- **★** K32
- **v** 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 4.6 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.

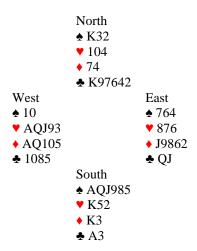
Is it likely that East has one or both red aces?

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.

Dealer North: Both vulnerable



West has led $\clubsuit 5$ (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 $\clubsuit A$, cash $\spadesuit A$, $\spadesuit Q$, play the $\clubsuit 3$ to the $\clubsuit K$, ruff a club, play a spade to the $\spadesuit K$ 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 $\spadesuit A$ is with East.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North: East-West vulnerable

North

- **★** K106
- **4**32
- **♦** 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."