

# 332. A ruff decision

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1♠	?

(1) 10-15 points, 0+ diamonds

What would you do as South with

♠ A9  
♥ QJ1098  
♦ K7  
♣ AK98

Now delete the above auction from your mind. What would you do as South after this start to the auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	?

(1) Weak two

The deal arose in the [LAVAZZA](#) vs [SCHWARTZ](#) semi-final in the 2017 Spingold (USA K-O Open Teams):

Board 30: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 652	
	♥ 652	
	♦ AJ64	
	♣ 1032	
West		East
♠ Q10		♠ KJ8743
♥ A73		♥ K4
♦ Q9853		♦ 102
♣ QJ7		♣ 654
	South	
	♠ A9	
	♥ QJ1098	
	♦ K7	
	♣ AK98	

West	North	East	South
<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>
1♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

(1) 10-15 points, 0+ diamonds

Does anyone else think that with both opponents bidding, 2♥ by South over 1♠ is enough. If it then goes Pass : Pass : 2♠, South can bid 3♣. North will revert to 3♥, which South should pass. South has 5 losers. If North has heart support and 2 winners, North will raise to 3♥. With less, North will pass 2♥.

Against 3♣, East led the ♦10: king – five – four. West rose with the ♥A on the ♥8 from dummy and switched to the ♠Q. Declarer took the ♠A, finessed the ♦J and played the ♦A: ♣4 – ♣9 – ♦3. East returned the ♠K and declarer discarded dummy's ♥9. North finished two down, –100.

Board 30: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

<p>West</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♥ A73 ♦ Q9853 ♣ QJ7</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ KJ8743 ♥ K4 ♦ 102 ♣ 654</p>
<p>North</p> <p>♠ 652 ♥ 652 ♦ AJ64 ♣ 1032</p>	
<p>South</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ QJ1098 ♦ K7 ♣ AK98</p>	

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>M. Bell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Gold</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Weak two

(2) Still for takeout

Effectively, South committed the partnership to game opposite possibly no points. Still, South had good reason to expect some values from North. West was a passed hand and East had opened a weak two. You would not expect North to have a blizzard.

West led the ♠Q. South took the ♠A, cashed ♦K, finessed the ♦J and played the ♦A. Had diamonds been 4-3, South would have had a strong chance to make 10 tricks. East ruffed the ♦A with the ♥4 and South over-ruffed. South lost control in trumps and made 1 spade, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs, two off, -100, no swing.

Yesterday's question was what should East do when the ♦A is played from dummy at trick 4. Giorgio Duboin produced the right answer by ruffing with the ♥4. If you ruff with the ♥K, you win the trick, but South discards the ♣9. South can now manage to make 1 spade, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and 3 clubs, 10 tricks.

*O'Malley: That Richard is a diamond of many facets.*

*Judy: You've discovered that too, have you, Kate?*

*O'Malley: Sure he's answered all my dreams . . . at bridge!*

*Judy: Oh, I see.*

*O'Malley: And now, Miss Judy, will you be wanting me to prepare any dinner this evening?*

*Judy: You'd like to arrange a little bridge party, eh, Kate?*

*O'Malley: Now that you've brought it up yourself, I would.*

*Judy: Well, you go right ahead. I shall be out for dinner tonight.*

(An early scene in the movie, *Spring in Park Lane*, 1948)

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
?			

What would you do as West with

♠ KJ92  
♥ 74  
♦ 873  
♣ Q1093

After you have made up your mind, suppose the bidding had been:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
?			

(1) Artificial, 16+ points

What would you do as West after this start?

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

*Why did the chicken cross the road? It wanted to be seen as poultry in motion.*