

348. Major misdefence

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North			
♠ 42			
♥ 6			
♦ K108			
♣ QJ108742			
West			
♠ J98			
♥ Q87			
♦ QJ43			
♣ AK3			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Do you agree with North's bidding?

West leads the ♣A: two – five – six. What would you play at trick 2?

There is a good case for North bidding 3♣ over South's 2♥ rebid. That would show 6+ clubs and about 5-8 points if playing natural methods. Playing in spades, the North hand has 1-2 tricks. In clubs, North is worth 5-6 tricks. If 3♣ does not suit, South can still bid something else.

South has shown 5+ spades and 5 hearts. Chances are that South began with a singleton club rather than two clubs and a singleton diamond. To protect your side's winners in hearts, a trump switch is a good idea. If South has ♠A-K-Q-x-x, the spade switch does not cost a trick. Likewise if East has the ♠K or ♠Q. Your side still comes to a spade trick if East plays the spade honour.

The deal arose in a teams' event at the New South Wales Bridge Association:

North			
♠ 42			
♥ 6			
♦ K108			
♣ QJ108742			
West		East	
♠ J98		♠ K105	
♥ Q87		♥ K543	
♦ QJ43		♦ 9652	
♣ AK3		♣ 95	
South			
♠ AQ763			
♥ AJ1092			
♦ A7			
♣ 6			

In one match, West led the ♣A and switched to the ♠8: two – ten – queen. South played the ♠A and the ♠3, taken by the ♠K. East switched to the ♦6: seven – jack – king. Declarer finessed the ♥J. West won and, with no further entry in dummy, played the ♣A. South ruffed and played ♥A and ♥9. South lost a spade, two hearts and a club, one light, East-West +100. Even if South had ruffed one heart, the result would still be one down.

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♥ Q87	♥ K543
♦ QJ43	♦ 9652
♣ AK3	♣ 95
South	
♠ AQ763	
♥ AJ1092	
♦ A7	
♣ 6	

At the other table, the North-South auction went 1♠ : 1NT, 4♥ : 4♠, all pass. With a 4½-5 loser hand, South's 4♥ is a reasonable shot. Most of the time, North will produce a better dummy.

West led the ♣K and switched to the ♦Q: eight – two – ace. South played ♥A, heart ruff, ♣Q ruffed and heart ruff. This was the position:

North	
♠	
♥	
♦ K10	
♣ J10874	
West	East
♠ J98	♠ K105
♥	♥ K
♦ J43	♦ 965
♣ A	♣
South	
♠ AQ76	
♥ J10	
♦ 7	
♣	

Declarer continued with the ♣J: ♦5 – ♠6 – ♣A, followed by the ♦K, diamond ruff and heart exit. East was down to ♠K-10-5 and played the ♠5. When South's ♠Q won, South had ten tricks, losing a club, a heart and a spade. That was +620 and +12 Imps to North-South

In the 7-card ending above, if East ruffs the ♣J with the ♠10 or ♠K, the defence will come to a club, a heart and two spades for one down and a tied board.

Results: 4♠ +620 x 2, -100 x 4; 5♣ +600; 3♠ +170, +140, -100 x 4; 1♠ / 2♠ +110 x 2, +140 x 4; 3♣ +150 x 3.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	?

(1) Michaels, majors at least 5-5, wide-ranging strength

What would you do as South with:

♠ 6
♥ 62
♦ J54
♣ AJ97642

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

What should a clock do when it becomes hungry? Go back four seconds.