348. Major misdefence

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North ▲ 42 ♥ 6 ◆ K10 ♣ QJ1		
 ▲ J98 ♥ Q87 ♦ QJ43 ♦ AK3 			
West Pass Pass	North 1NT 2♠	East Pass Pass Pass	South 1♠ 2♥ 3♥
Pass Pass	3♠ Pass	Pass Pass	4 ♠

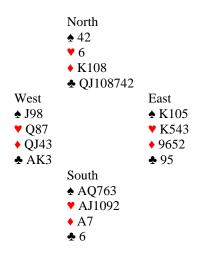
Do you agree with North's bidding?

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

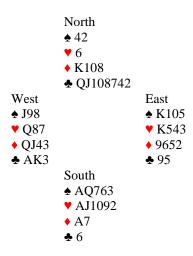
There is a good case for North bidding 3♣ over South's 2♥ rebid. That would show 6+ clubs and about 5-8 points if playing natural methods. Playing in spades, the North hand has 1-2 tricks. In clubs, North is worth 5-6 tricks. If 3♣ does not suit, South can still bid something else.

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 A-K-Q-x-x for A-K-Q-x-x. 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:

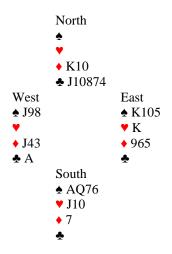


In one match, West led the A and switched to the A: two – ten – queen. South played the A and the A, taken by the K. East switched to the 6: seven – jack – king. Declarer finessed the V. West won and, with no further entry in dummy, played the A. South ruffed and played V and V. South lost a spade, two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



At the other table, the North-South auction went $1 \ge 1$ NT, $4 \lor : 4 \ge 1$, all pass. With a $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5 loser hand, South's $4 \lor$ is a reasonable shot. Most of the time, North will produce a better dummy.

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



Declarer continued with the $\bigstar J: \bigstar 5 - \bigstar 6 - \bigstar A$, followed by the $\bigstar K$, diamond ruff and heart exit. East was down to $\bigstar K$ -10-5 and played the $\bigstar 5$. When South's $\bigstar Q$ 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 \bigstar J with the \bigstar 10 or \bigstar 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 $1
ightarrow 2
ightarrow^{(1)}$ 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.