# 352. Home via a different route

### By Ron Klinger

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer South: North-South vulnerable

#### North

- **♠** A874
- **♥** AQ972
- **♦** 94
- **♣** K4

#### South

- **♦** Q5
- ♥ K1043
- ♦ AK
- ♣ A8752

```
West North
                   East
                           South
                             1NT
Pass
                            2Y
         2♣
                    Pass
                            4 {\triangleq}^{(2)}
         4♦<sup>(1)</sup>
Pass
                   Pass
                            6♥<sup>(4)</sup>
         5Y(3)
                   Pass
Pass
Pass
         Pass
                    Pass
```

- (1) Sets hearts, asks for key cards
- (2) 0 or 3 key cards
- (3) In case it is zero
- (4) No, it is three.

West leads the ♣J. Plan the play.

You have an inevitable spade loser, but if trumps are 2-2 or 3-1, the play looks comfortable by setting up the clubs as long as they are 3-3 or 4-2. As you plan to set the clubs up later, you start by winning trick 1 with the ♣K. There is no reason to delay drawing trumps.

#### How should you play the trumps?

You should start off with the ♥A (or ♥Q). This leaves you with a tenace in trumps in each hand, K-10-4 opposite Q-9-7-2, and guards against either opponent holding all four hearts.

You play ♥A, ♥K and ♥Q, West following and East discarding ♦6, ♦10.

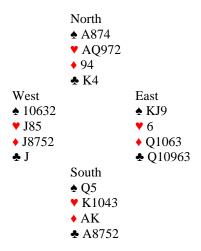
#### What next?

If the clubs behave, they can wait. You have plenty of entries to hand for the clubs. The clubs could be 5-1. If so, you can ruff two clubs in dummy, but that still leaves you with a club loser and a spade loser. Just in case, you should play a low spade from dummy at trick 2. This will give you an extra trick if the &K is onside.

If the ♠Q loses to the ♠K with West, you will still be fine if the clubs are 3-3 or 4-2. Win the spade return, play ♠A and ruff a club. If a club is still outstanding, cross to hand with a diamond and ruff a fourth club. No problem if clubs behave.

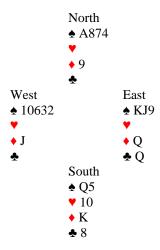
The deal arose in a teams' match on BBO (Bridge Base Online) and was passed on to me by Bruce Neill of Sydney.

Dealer South: North-South vulnerable



After ♣J, king, three rounds of hearts ending in dummy and a low spade, East can take the ♠K. Say, East switches to a diamond. South wins, cashes ♠Q, ♣A, ruffs a clubs, pitches a club on the ♠A, ruffs a spade or plays a diamond and ruffs the last club in dummy for 12 tricks.

When the deal arose, Tania Lloyd, a very fine player, was declarer and found a different path to success. She took the  $\Delta J$  lead with the K, cashed A, K, Q, A and ruffed a club, discovering the bad news. Next came A and another club ruff, which left this ending:



South crossed to the  $\bigstar K$  and exited with the  $\bigstar 8$ . East won and had to play a spade. This allowed South to score her twelfth trick and make  $6 \heartsuit$  the hard way. Had East come down to  $\bigstar K$ -J,  $\bigstar Q$ -10 and  $\bigstar Q$ , that would have taken the slam one down, but that ship had sailed when East discarded two diamonds at trick 2 and 3.

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

Dealer West: Both vulnerable

West North East South
Pass 1♠ 2♣ 2♥
Pass 3♥(1) Pass ?

(1) Natural, not forcing

Playing pairs, what would you do as South with:

- **♦** 854
- **♥** KQ862
- ♦ K96
- **♣** Q9

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

What does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten-tickles.