

385. Don't mind the bidding, see the play

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	2♦	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 4
♥ J632
♦ KQ975
♣ 1042

Your basic choices are to bid 2♥ or to pass. Suppose you pass. The auction continues:

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

What now?

Personally, I bid 2♥ on the first auction. Chances are good that I will receive a diamond lead. I can discard from dummy and either win the trick or create two diamond tricks if third hand plays the ace. The other choice is to pass and play for penalties. The advantage of bidding 2♥ now is that it shows 6-9 points and 4+ hearts.

If you pass 2♦, it looks as though you are keen to play for penalties. That is certainly a reasonable choice. If so, then on the second auction, you pass partner's second double for penalties. If not, then you can bid 3♥ now to show 4+ hearts and some decent values. Mind you, partner will not play you for 6+ points and 4 hearts. With that you would have bid 2♥ earlier.

Passing initially and bidding 2♥ on the next round should show a hand with 4+ hearts and 0-5 points. The South hand is better than that.

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

North
♠ AJ109
♥ K1054
♦ --
♣ AQ983

South
♠ 4
♥ J632
♦ KQ975
♣ 1042

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♦4. Plan the play.

Liz Sylvester of Sydney spotted the deal on BBO from a USA tournament and Peter Gill of Sydney passed the deal on to me. While the bidding might have lacked enterprise, South's play did not.

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

North	
♠ AJ109	
♥ K1054	
♦ --	
♣ AQ983	
West	East
♠ KQ76	♠ 8532
♥ A7	♥ Q98
♦ 8642	♦ AJ103
♣ KJ6	♣ 75
South	
♠ 4	
♥ J632	
♦ KQ975	
♣ 1042	

West led the ♦4: ♣3 – ♦A – ♦5. East returned the ♦J: king – two – ♣8. After ♠4: queen – ace – three, South ruffed the ♠J, finessed the ♣Q, cashed the ♣A, ruffed the ♠10 and discarded dummy's ♣9 on the ♦Q. Ruffing the ♠9 with the ♥6 was South's ninth trick and the ♥J opposite ♥K-10-5 guaranteed the tenth trick for N-S +170.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dble	2♦	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

That is an appealing auction. Alas, the play went awry. West led the ♦4: ♠9 – ♦A – ♦5. Since you can ruff spades in hand, the value in discarding a spade from dummy is not immediately apparent. West will not have five spades for the 1♦ opening and with five spades, East would almost certainly bid 1♠ rather than 2♦. That means spades figure to be 4-4.

At trick 2, East returned the ♦J: king – three – ♠10. Then came ♣10: king – ace – five. South cashed the ♠A and ruffed the ♠J. After ♥3: seven – ten – queen, East returned the ♦3. Inserting the ♦9 looks clear, given East's ♦J at trick 2. That would have worked, but South rose with the ♦Q and discarded the ♣3 from dummy. Still that was not fatal.

South continued with the ♣4: six – eight – seven (but that was fatal) and the ♥4: eight – jack – ace. West returned the ♣J. East ruffed and that was one down, East-West +100 and +7 Imps. There were earlier opportunities to succeed, but to make 4♥ after winning with the ♦K, declarer needed to play the ♥6 from hand or ruff a diamond and then play the ♥5 from dummy.

Problem for Tomorrow:

With both sides vulnerable, East deals and passes. What would you do as South with:

♠ 6
♥ 8
♦ K108
♣ KQ1098642

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

If you are kidnapped by mimes, will they do unspeakable things to you?