

188. S'no win and the 7 imps

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A
♥ A104
♦ QJ108543
♣ KJ

With one board to go in the final of the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championship, [LEVINE](#) (Mike Levine – Eddie Wold, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell) led [KOLESNIK](#) (Finn Kolesnik age 16 – Jacob Freeman age 19, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey) by 113 Imps to 106.

The above problem arose on the last deal:

Board 56: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ972	
	♥ K32	
	♦ 762	
	♣ 106	
West		East
♠ J84		♠ 10653
♥ Q9		♥ J8765
♦ 9		♦ AK
♣ AQ98432		♣ 75
	South	
	♠ A	
	♥ A104	
	♦ QJ108543	
	♣ KJ	

After 3♣ : Pass : Pass, Meckstroth (S) bid 3NT. That could have been the winning decision opposite some North hands. North might have had 3-4 clubs and if West leads a club, West might not have an entry and East might be out of clubs. North might have had no help in clubs, but might have ♦A, ♦K. Then South would have nine easy tricks.

The other choice was 3♦ by South. That would be fine if that was the limit for North-South. It would also allow North, with adequate values, to bid a 5+ major. If North bid 3♥, South would have an easy 4♥ bid. The downside for 3♦ is that if North has decent values but no club stopper, there was no way for North to ask South for a club stopper. If South had bid 3♦, North might have bid 3♠ and South might have rebid 3NT anyway.

Bramley (W) led the ♣2: six – five – jack. South cashed the ♠A, played the ♥4 to the ♥K and cashed the ♠K, ♠Q. Had an opponent started with ♠J-10-x, South would have had 5 spade tricks, 2 hearts and a club, one down. As it was, there was no such luck in spades. Declarer crossed to the ♥A for his sixth trick and played the ♦Q. The defenders took the rest of the tricks. That was three down, East-West +150.

Board 56: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ972	
	♥ K32	
	♦ 762	
	♣ 106	
West		East
♠ J84		♠ 10653
♥ Q9		♥ J8765
♦ 9		♦ AK
♣ AQ98432		♣ 75
	South	
	♠ A	
	♥ A104	
	♦ QJ108543	
	♣ KJ	

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) For takeout

(2) 5+ spades and 6-9 points

With 10-11 points and 5 spades, North would have bid 2♠ over 2♣. West's initial pass and South's 2♦ reply (rather than 3♦) to North's double would be considered conservative by some.

West led the ♥Q. South took the ♥A, cashed the ♠A, played the ♥4 to the ♥K and discarded the ♥10 and the ♣J on the ♠K, ♠Q. Next came the ♦2. South lost two diamonds and a club. That gave South 10 tricks for +130 and 7 Imps [KOLESNIK](#). After 56 boards, the scores were tied 113-113.

Had West led the ♦9 – no reason why West should find that lead – the defence could have taken 2 diamonds and 2 clubs, holding South to 9 tricks for +110. That would have meant +260 to [KOLESNIK](#) for +6 Imps and a 1-Imp win to [LEVINE](#).

In the event of a tie, the regulations called for an 8-board playoff. The players declined. The Tournament Director offered to have the 8-board playoff played the next day. The players declined and so the result of the event was a tie.

I would have expected the players to share the Master Points for first and second, but because the players declined the playoff, the authorities decreed that each team would receive the Master Points for second place.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

North

♠ J9853

♥ 43

♦ A42

♣ J82

East

♠ 10

♥ AJ8765

♦ Q986

♣ KQ

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 4+ hearts, maximum pass

West leads the ♥K. How do you defend?

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

Napoleon may not have designed the coat he wore, but he definitely had a hand in it.

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.
