

169. Losing decision

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♦	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	Pass
(1) Takeout		Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 985
♥ --
♦ KJ92
♣ A87532

Today's deal is from the quarter-final match between **NICKELL** (Daniel Korbel – Richard Coren, Viktor Aronov – Jerry Stamatov) and **TULIN** (Mike Levine – Eddie Wold, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell) in the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championships).

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
?		Pass	Pass

What would you do as West with:

♠ 62
♥ KQ87
♦ AQ10654
♣ 6

Bd. 17: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQJ3	
	♥ 96542	
	♦ --	
	♣ KQ104	
West		East
♠ 62		♠ A1074
♥ KQ87		♥ AJ103
♦ AQ10654		♦ 873
♣ 6		♣ J9
	South	
	♠ 985	
	♥ --	
	♦ KJ92	
	♣ A87532	

The standard opening bid would be 1♦. That is what happened at one table.

West	North	East	South
1♦ ⁽¹⁾	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♥	5♣	Rdbl ⁽²⁾	3♣
(1) 2+ diamonds		Dble	All Pass
(2) 4+ hearts			

West led the ♥K. South ruffed and played ♠8: two – king – ace. East switched to ♣9, taken by ♣10. South ruffed another heart, played ♠5 to ♠Q and ruffed a heart. Then came ♠9: ♦4 – ♠J – ♠7, the fourth heart ruff, establishing dummy's last heart, diamond ruff, spade ruff, ♣K, 12 tricks, N-S +950

At the other table, after the auction in the first problem above, Eddie Wold (S) bid 3NT. You can see what he was thinking: 'Partner will have the majors. I have the diamonds well stopped plus a source of tricks in clubs.' Things did not turn out as he wanted.

Bd. 17: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North ♠ KQJ3 ♥ 96542 ♦ -- ♣ KQ104	
West ♠ 62 ♥ KQ87 ♦ AQ10654 ♣ 6		East ♠ A1074 ♥ AJ103 ♦ 873 ♣ J9
	South ♠ 985 ♥ -- ♦ KJ92 ♣ A87532	

West	North	East	South
3♦	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♥K: two – three (encouraging) – ♠5, followed by the ♥7: five – jack – ♠8. East switched to the ♦8: jack – queen – ♠3. West returned the ♥Q, overtaken by the ♥A. Then came a hasty ♥10, ♠A and ♦7, nine, ten, and West cashed the ♦A. That took 3NT four down, East-West +400 and +16 Imps to [KORBEL](#).

It looks as though East was playing West for 7 diamonds and cashing his own winners before returning a diamond. That is how East would have played if he had started with only two diamonds. After overtaking the ♥Q with the ♥A, East could play the ♦7 next: nine – ten – discard from dummy, win the ♥10 return, now cash the ♠A and play the ♦3. That would give West the rest of the diamonds and the defence would have one spade, four hearts and six diamonds to take 3NT seven down, +700, but only 1 Imp extra, +17 Imps.

After Pass : Pass : 3♦ : Double, Pass, South is too strong for 4♣. A jump to 5♣ would have been more successful than 3NT, but it would still have been an 8-Imp loss - +620 vs -950. After this sequence, 5♣ would not have been doubled.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦ ⁽¹⁾	?	Pass	Pass
(1) 2+ diamonds, playing a strong 1♣ system			

What would you do as North with:

- ♠ Q83
- ♥ A52
- ♦ KQJ85
- ♣ AQ

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

Whenever I try to eat healthy food, a chocolate bar looks at me and snickers.

New book: *The Power of Pass* (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.