# 169. Losing decision

## By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
3♦	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	?
(1) T 1			

(1) Takeout

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:

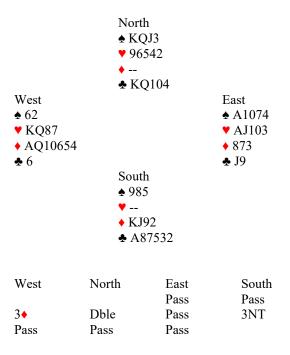
▲ 62
♥ KQ87
♦ AQ10654
▲ 6

Bd. 17: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

	North ♠ KQJ3 ♥ 96542		The standard opening bid would be $1 \blacklozenge$ . That is what happened at one table.				
	♦		West	North	East	South	
	<b>♣</b> KQ104				Pass	Pass	
West		East	<b>1</b> ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Dble	Rdbl <sup>(2)</sup>	3♣	
♠ 62		<b>▲</b> A1074	4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass	
♥ KQ87		♥ AJ103	(1) 2+ diamonds				
♦ AQ10654		♦ 873	(2) $4$ + hearts				
<b>♣</b> 6		<b>♣</b> J9					
	South						
	<b>◆</b> 985		West led the ♥K. South ruffed and played ♠8: two – king – ace.				
	<b>Y</b>		East switched to ♣9, taken by ♣10. South ruffed another heart,				
	♦ KJ92		played $\pm 5$ to $\pm Q$ and ruffed a heart. Then came $\pm 9: \pm 4 - \pm J - \pm 7$ , the fourth heart ruff, establishing dummy's last heart, diamond ruff, spade ruff, $\pm K$ , 12 tricks, N-S +950				
	♣ A87532						

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



West led the  $\forall$ K: two – three (encouraging) –  $\bigstar$ 5, followed by the  $\forall$ 7: five – jack –  $\bigstar$ 8. East switched to the  $\bigstar$ 8: jack – queen –  $\bigstar$ 3. West returned the  $\forall$ Q, overtaken by the  $\forall$ A. Then came a hasty  $\forall$ 10,  $\bigstar$ A and  $\diamond$ 7, nine, ten, and West cashed the  $\blacklozenge$ 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  $\forall$ Q with the  $\forall$ A, East could play the  $\diamond$ 7 next: nine – ten – discard from dummy, win the  $\forall$ 10 return, now cash the  $\triangle$ A and play the  $\diamond$ 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

WestNorthEastSouthPassPassPass1♦(1)?(1)2+ diamonds, playing a strong1♣ 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 <u>suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</u> or telephone 0411 229 705.