

# 174. Up and down in 3NT #2

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

North  
 ♠ K8643  
 ♥ --  
 ♦ KJ85  
 ♣ AKQ6

East  
 ♠ A7  
 ♥ KJ932  
 ♦ 732  
 ♣ J105

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ♣8: ace – five – seven. Declarer plays the ♠3: seven – ten – jack. West returns the ♣3: king – jack – nine. South continues with the ♠4 from dummy: ace – queen – two. What would you play at trick 5?

Today's deal comes from the semi-final match between [KOLESNIK](#) (Finn Kolesnik– Jacob Freeman, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey) and [SPECTOR](#) (Warren Spector – Gavin Wolpert, Kevin Bathurst – John Hurd, Vincent Demuy – John Kranyak) in the 2020 North America Online Teams.

Board 8: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

North  
 ♠ K8643  
 ♥ --  
 ♦ KJ85  
 ♣ AKQ6

West  
 ♠ J952  
 ♥ 864  
 ♦ AQ10  
 ♣ 832

East  
 ♠ A7  
 ♥ KJ932  
 ♦ 732  
 ♣ J105

South  
 ♠ Q10  
 ♥ AQ1075  
 ♦ 964  
 ♣ 974

The auction was the same at both tables:

West	North	East	South
<i>Spector</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
<i>Woolsey</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The early play was also the same: ♣8 lead (not keen on clubs), taken by the ace. The ♠3 went to the ten and jack. West played the ♣3, won by the ♣K. South continued with the ♠4 from dummy: ace – queen – two. Wolpert (E) figured that South would always have an entry if South began with four clubs, but if South had started with only three clubs, South would have no entry to hand, even if South had the ♦Q but not the ♦A. East therefore returned the ♣10, taken by the ♣Q.

Declarer cashed the ♣6: ♦2 – ♥5 – ♥4. Declarer played the ♦K from dummy: seven – six – ace. West exited with the ♠5. Declarer had lost three tricks so far. Dummy was down to ♠K-8-6 ♦J-8-5. If declarer won with the ♠K, West would win the next spade and cash the ♦Q for one down. In practice, South covered the ♠5 with the ♠6, winning, and cashed the ♠K and ♠8. When declarer exited from dummy with a diamond, West won two diamond tricks for one down, East-West +50.

Board 8: Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K8643	
	♥ --	
	♦ KJ85	
	♣ AKQ6	
West		East
♠ J952		♠ A7
♥ 864		♥ KJ932
♦ AQ10		♦ 732
♣ 832		♣ J105
	South	
	♠ Q10	
	♥ AQ1075	
	♦ 964	
	♣ 974	

At the other table, after ♣8 lead, taken by the ace, the ♠3 to the ten and jack, the ♣3, won by the ♣K and the ♠4 from dummy: ace – queen – two, Bramley (E) switched to the ♥2 at trick 5. Kranyak (S) inserted the ♥10, winning. Then came the ♦4: queen – king – two. Declarer cashed the ♣K and ♣6, followed by the ♠K. When he exited from dummy with the ♠8, West won and cashed the ♦A. South made the last two tricks whether West played a diamond or a heart, North-South +400, 10 Imps to **SPECTOR**.

At the halfway mark, **SPECTOR** led **KOLESNIK** by 72 Imps to 39.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

What would you do now as West with:

♠ AKJ  
♥ KJ9  
♦ KQ92  
♣ K75

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

*This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, more of a definitely won't-be. (British Military Staff Appraisal)*

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 <a href="mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com">suzie@ronklingerbridge.com</a> or telephone 0411 229 705.
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