

# 176. Making but could be beaten and vice versa

*By Ron Klinger*

Today's deal arose in Session 4 of the semi-final match in the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championship between **SPECTOR** (Warren Spector – Gavin Wolpert, Kevin Bathurst – John Hurd, Vincent Demuy – John Kranyak) and **KOLESNIK** (Finn Kolesnik – Jacob Freeman, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey).

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	?		

(1) 4+ spades

(2) Minimum opening, denies 3 spades

(3) Transfer to 2♠

What would you do now as North with:

♠ KJ10954  
♥ 752  
♦ 102  
♣ AQ

You have only 10 HCP and partner will be below 15 HCP. That suggests passing 2♠. On the plus side, you have not only 10 HCP, but also a good 6-card suit with strong intermediates, plus an outside 10. Give partner ♠Q-x for example, and game becomes viable.

One North passed 2♠, which became the contract. The other raised to 3♠ and South rebid 3NT, all pass. One declarer succeeded and one went down, but it was the 3NT contract that came home.

Board 53: Dealer North : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KJ10954	
	♥ 752	
	♦ 102	
	♣ AQ	
West		East
♠ AQ3		♠ 872
♥ J843		♥ K6
♦ 876		♦ KQ543
♣ 932		♣ K64
	South	
	♠ 6	
	♥ AQ109	
	♦ AJ9	
	♣ J10875	

Against 3NT, Bathurst (W) led the ♥3: two – king – ace. Hamman (S) played the ♠6: three – jack – two, followed by the ♥5: six – ten – jack. West switched to the ♣2, queen, king. East returned the ♠6 to the ♣A. South claimed nine tricks, 1 spade, 3 hearts, 1 diamond and 4 clubs, North-South +600.

If West had led a diamond, 3NT could be defeated. East plays the ♦Q. If South wins and finesses the ♣Q, East wins and returns a low diamond. If instead, South plays a spade, West rises with the ace and continues diamonds. East wins and plays a third diamond. When in later with the ♣K, West cashes two more diamonds.

Board 53: Dealer North : Both vulnerable

North	
♠ KJ10954	
♥ 752	
♦ 102	
♣ AQ	
West	East
♠ AQ3	♠ 872
♥ J843	♥ K6
♦ 876	♦ KQ543
♣ 932	♣ K64
South	
♠ 6	
♥ AQ109	
♦ AJ9	
♣ J10875	

At the other table, the bidding had been 1♣ : 1♠, 1NT : 2♥ (transfer), 2♠, all pass and so North was declarer. East led the ♦K, taken by the ace. Declarer played the ♦9 to the ♦10 and the ♦Q. East switched to the ♥6.

Declarer would have succeeded by playing the ♥Q – and why not, as there is only one heart discard on the ♦J anyway? – but he rose with the ♥A. When the club finesse lost, East cashed the ♥K and reverted to a club. North won and played the ♣9: eight – six – queen. West returned a heart. North ruffed with the ♠J, followed by ♠K: two – ♣8 – ♠A These cards remained:

North	
♠ 1054	
♥	
♦	
♣	
West	East
♠ 3	♠ 7
♥ J	♥
♦	♦ 54
♣ 2	♣
South	
♠	
♥ Q	
♦	
♣ J10	

When West returned the ♥J, North could not prevent East's ♠7 becoming the sixth trick for the defence. North ruffed low and East over-ruffed. One down, East-West +50 and 10 Imps to [KOLESNIK](#). Even if North had made 2♠, it would have been 7 Imps out.

[KOLESNIK](#) won Session 4 by 60 Imps to 7 and the match by 132-84.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ AQ10982  
♥ K642  
♦ 107  
♣ 7

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

*This man is depriving a village somewhere of it idiot. (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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