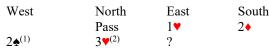
181. When passing works and when it doesn't

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North: Nil vulnerable



- (1) Natural, not forcing
- (2) Strong diamond raise

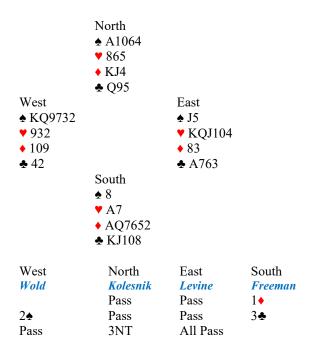
What would you do as East with:

♣ J5 **♥** KQJ104 **♦** 83

♣ A763

The final of the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championship was between LEVINE (Mike Levine – Eddie Wold, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell) and KOLESNIK (Finn Kolesnik age 16 – Jacob Freeman age 19, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey).

Bd. 14: Dealer North: Nil vulnerable



East might have opened 1♥ (Rule of 20 and Rule of 22 both suggest opening 1♥) and might have bid 3♥ after 2♠: Pass. However, passing both times worked out well for East as he was on lead against 3NT. He began with the ♥K, ducked, and the ♥4 (suit-preference for clubs) at trick 2. Declarer crossed to the ◆J and played the ♣9. East rose with the ♣A and cashed three more hearts to take 3NT one down, East-West +50.

At the other table, after the auction at the top of the page, Bramley (E) passed 3♥ and South bid 3NT, all pass. West led the ♠Q, underleading. Helness (S) took the ♠A and knocked out the ♠A. East took the ♠A on the third round of clubs and switched to the ♥K. South claimed 11 tricks, +460 and 11 Imps to LEVINE.

In the problem auction, it was strange for East not to double 3♥ to ask for a heart lead. That was a lead that could not cost.

LEVINE won Session 1 by 35 Imps to 32

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
2♣	3♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♠
Pass	?		

(1) Spade raise, game invitation or better

What would you do as North with:

- **♠** AJ9
- **♥** Q8
- ♦ KJ9865
- **♣** 63

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

Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and started to dig. (British Military Staff Appraisal)

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.