182. One more for the road?

By Ron Klinger

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:

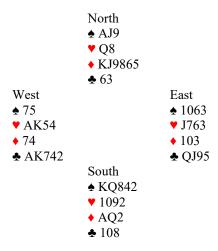
- **♠** AJ9
- **♥** O8
- ♦ KJ9865
- **♣** 63

If you count points, you would say, '11 HCP plus I points for each doubleton, 13 points, I should bid game, 4. If you count losers, you would say, '2 spade losers, 2 hearts losers, 2 diamond losers, 2 club losers, total 8 losers. Partner opened. That should be 7 losers. 8 + 7 = 15 and 24 - 15 = 9 tricks expected. Therefore I should pass 3.

After Session 1 in the final of the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championship, LEVINE (Mike Levine – Eddie Wold, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell) led KOLESNIK (Finn Kolesnik age 16 – Jacob Freeman age 19, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey) by 35-32.

Session 2: Board 21

Dealer East: Both vulnerable



At the other table it began Pass: $1 \ge 2 \ge 2$ NT (spade raise, game-invitation or better), : Pass: $3 \ge 3$, all pass. Weichsel led the A, East playing the Q. Then came the K, A to the A and the A. Meckstroth ruffed the next heart with dummy's A9, drew trumps and had nine tricks, A140.

At the other table, after the auction at the top of the page, Kolesnik (S) raised $3 \triangleq$ to $4 \triangleq$, all pass. On some days that could have been the winning decision. This was not one of them. Wold (W) led the $A \triangleq A$, $A \triangleq 5$ from East, followed by the $A \triangleq A$, $A \triangleq A$ and that was one down, $A \triangleq A$ and $A \triangleq A$.

LEVINE won Session 2 by 24-19 and led by 58-51 at halfway.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North: Both vulnerable

West North East South Pass Pass $1^{\bullet(1)}$ Pass

(1) Playing 5-card majors

What would you do as North with:

- **♠** Q1086
- **♥** A95
- ♦ 1092
- ♣ A52

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

Has two brains; one is lost and the other one is out looking for it. (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.