

183. Patterns

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥ ⁽¹⁾
	?		

(1) Playing 5-card majors

What would you do as North with:

♠ Q1086
♥ A95
♦ 1092
♣ A52

At halfway 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 59 Imps to 51.

Session 3: Board 35

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

	North		
	♠ Q1086		
	♥ A95		
	♦ 1092		
	♣ A52		
West		East	
♠ J742		♠ AK95	
♥ K6		♥ 1043	
♦ 6543		♦ QJ8	
♣ KJ9		♣ 1043	
	South		
	♠ 3		
	♥ QJ872		
	♦ AK7		
	♣ Q876		

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>M'stroth</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
	2♥	All Pass	

If we could bid as well as Bob Hamman, we would be more than satisfied. On the one hand, North has 10 HCP with heart support. That normally comes out at 8 losers. On the other hand, North has a 9-loser hand. That normally is the loser count for a 6-9 raise. That suggests it is enough to bid 2♥. For your side to make game, partner will need a 5-loser hand (9 + 5 = 14 and 24 – 14 = 10 tricks are likely). If opener does have a 5-loser hand, you can be confident that partner will bid again after your raise to 2♥.

West led the ♦4. Declarer lost two clubs, a diamond and a spade. After ruffing the second spade, declarer played the ♥Q, king, ace, and the ♥9: four – seven – six. The next heart drew the missing trump and South had nine tricks for +140.

Board 35: Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

North			
♠ Q1086			
♥ A95			
♦ 1092			
♣ A52			
West			East
♠ J742			♠ AK95
♥ K6			♥ 1043
♦ 6543			♦ QJ8
♣ KJ9			♣ 1043
South			
♠ 3			
♥ QJ872			
♦ AK7			
♣ Q876			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Woolsey</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

West led the ♦4: ten – jack – ace. South played the ♥J: king – ace – four, followed by the ♣2: three – queen – king. Back came the ♦3: two – eight – king. After a club to the ace and the ♣5: ten – seven – jack, West continued with the ♦5. East won with the ♦Q and played ♠A, ♠K. With no access to dummy to finesse in hearts, South played the ♥Q. When the ♥10 did not fall, declarer was one down.

Declarer was torn between taking the heart finesse and dealing with the fourth round of clubs. Declarer could have succeeded by not touching trumps and playing ♣A at trick 2 and a second club. When clubs turn out to be 3-3, declarer can then play the hearts for no loser.

LEVINE won Session 3 by 22 Imps to 18 and led by 81-69 with 14 boards to play.

Problem for Tomorrow:

East dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	?	Pass	2♥

(1) 12-14

(2) Simple Stayman

What would you do as North with:

♠ K1054
 ♥ KQ107
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q1098

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

Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. (Albert Einstein)

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.