

185. Competing at the 3 level

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) Natural, not forcing

What would you do as East with:

♠ 5
♥ AQJ10
♦ 103
♣ KQJ874

With 9 boards to go 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 98 Imps to 75. They went even further ahead after this deal:

Session 4: Board 48

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

	North		East
	♠ 106		♠ 5
	♥ K9842		♥ AQJ10
	♦ AQJ76		♦ 103
	♣ 10		♣ KQJ874
West		South	
♠ KQ72		♠ AJ9843	
♥ 763		♥ 5	
♦ K954		♦ 82	
♣ 52		♣ A963	

After the auction above, Woolsey (E) correctly judged that the hand was a misfit for North-South. He had the hearts sitting over the opener and partner figured to have length in spades. He doubled 3♠ and everyone passed. Woolsey's judgment about the majors was correct, but even with the bad lie in the majors and North-South having 19 points to East-West's 21, the defence could not defeat 3♠.

West led the ♣5: ten – jack – ace. To ruff a club at trick 2 would not be helpful, since there was no quick re-entry to hand to ruff another club. Meckstroth (S) finessed the ♦Q at trick 2, cashed the ♦A and ruffed the ♦7. Then came club ruff, diamond ruff and another club. Bramley (W) ruffed in with the ♠Q and switched to the ♥3: king – ace – five. These cards remained:

	North	
	♠ 10	
	♥ 984	
	♦ J	
	♣	
West		East
♠ K72		♠ 5
♥ 76		♥ J10
♦		♦
♣		♣ KQ
	South	
	♠ AJ98	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ 9	

South had lost two tricks to the ♠Q and ♥A. East switched to the ♠5 and South conceded a trick to the ♠K and a club loser, but that was still nine tricks, North-South +530. In a sense, declarer was lucky in finding North with ♠10-6 and a shortage in clubs, but would North have risked 3♦ without tolerance for spades? The answer to today's problem is that East should pass 3♣ out. East-West are not being robbed of a game. Indeed, they are not even being robbed of a part-score. After a heart lead, 3♣ figures to be a couple off.

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	North	
	♠ 106	
	♥ K9842	
	♦ AQJ76	
	♣ 10	
West		East
♠ KQ72		♠ 5
♥ 763		♥ AQJ10
♦ K954		♦ 103
♣ 52		♣ KQJ874
	South	
	♠ AJ9843	
	♥ 5	
	♦ 82	
	♣ A963	

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Natural and forcing

So at one table, 3♠ was doubled. At the other 4♠ was not doubled. West led the ♣5. South took the ♣A and finessed the ♦Q. Then came the ♥8: ten – five – three and East switched to the ♠5: three – queen – six. West returned the ♠2: ten – ♣4 – ♠4. Declarer ruffed a heart, finessed the ♦J and cashed the ♦A, discarding a club.

South had lost a spade and a heart so far and still had another spade to lose as well as two clubs. That was two down for –100 and 12 Imps to **LEVINE**, now leading by 110-75. One could be excused for thinking the match was effectively over.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

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

(1) Primarily for takeout

What would you do as South with:

♠ AQ4
♥ KQ4
♦ 865
♣ AK102

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

*Did you know that the space between your eyebrows and the clear part of your forehead has a name?
It is called a 'glabella'.*

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.