

## 272. From the archives

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West: Both vulnerable

North  
♠ KJ  
♥ A1083  
♦ 954  
♣ AKJ10

South  
♠ 843  
♥ QJ962  
♦ 1063  
♣ Q5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

1. West leads ♦K: four – two (low-like) – six.
2. West continues with the ♦Q: five – seven – six.
3. West plays the ♦J: nine – eight – ten.
4. West switches to the ♠2.

Not long ago I was re-re-reading an old bridge book (*Bridge Logic*, by the late Hugh Kelsey) when a couple of newspaper clippings fell out. They are undated, but you can gauge their age, as they have yellowed quite a bit. The problem above came from a bridge column by B. J. Becker (USA).

*Where is the king of hearts?*

We cannot be sure of the location of the ♥K, but since we have lost three diamonds and we are bound to lose at least one spade, we should play West for the ♥K. It is far more likely that West has ♥K-x, ♥K-x-x or ♥K-7-5-4 than East having the ♥K singleton.

*What do you know about the West hand?*

West has shown up with 6 points, the ♦K, ♦Q, ♦J.

*What else do you know about West?*

Oh, yes, West is a passed hand, so West will not have more than 12 HCP and probably not even 12.

*So if we give West the ♥K and ♦K-Q-J, where is the ♠A?*

Dealer West: Both vulnerable

North  
♠ KJ  
♥ A1083  
♦ 954  
♣ AKJ10

West  
♠ Q1072  
♥ K5  
♦ KQJ  
♣ 9864

East  
♠ A965  
♥ 74  
♦ A872  
♣ 732

South  
♠ 843  
♥ QJ962  
♦ 1063  
♣ Q5

West will not have the ♥K, ♦K-Q-J and the ♠A and pass initially. Therefore, if you are going to make this contract, you should play the ♠J on the ♠2. Result: nine tricks.

Incidentally, if East captures the ♠J with the ♠Q and returns a spade to West's ace, you know that East began with the ♥K. You will cash the ♥A and hope the ♥K is singleton and then you will be only one down.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North

♠ KJ76

♥ A52

♦ K1065

♣ A4

South

♠ AQ542

♥ J73

♦ A3

♣ K75

West	North	East	South
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		3♥	3♠
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Pass	4♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♠
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Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠ <sup>(2)</sup>
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Pass	6♠	All Pass	
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(1) Strong spade raise, heart control

(2) Two key cards plus the ♠Q

West leads the ♣3, fourth-highest. You draw trumps. East follows once and then discards two hearts. Plan the play.

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

*I bought a new fridge for my wife. Her face lit up when she opened it.*

A great gift: <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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