# 165. Quaranteens

### By Ron Klinger

Dealer North: Both vulnerable

West North East South Silverstein Kolesnik Rosenthal Pass  $2 \stackrel{(1)}{•}^{(1)}$   $2NT^{(2)}$ 

Pass ?

- (1) 6 spades, 6-10 points
- (2) 15-18 points, balanced, at least one spade stopper

What would you do as North with:

- **♦** 8
- ♥ AJ93
- 983
- ♣ J10865

On the one hand, you have only 6 HCP and partner's range is 15-18. You could choose to pass. On the other hand, you are vulnerable and at teams, it is important to bid vulnerable games. Secondly, you have a 5-card suit and that entitles you to upgrade your hand. Thirdly, the weak two-opening may provide useful information for partner.

Today's deal comes from the 56-board quarter-final match in early August between KOLESNIK (Finn Kolesnik age 16 – Jacob Freeman age 19, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey) and ROSENTHAL (Andrew Rosenthal – Aaron Silverstein, Boye Brogeland – Espen Lindqvist, Jan Jansma – Chris Willenken) in the North America Online Bridge Championships (NAOBC). Four of the USA's top players chose the youngsters to be their team-mates.

Board 10: Dealer North: Both vulnerable

#### North

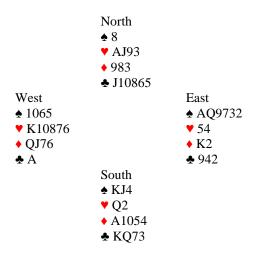
- **♦**8
- **♥** AJ93
- ♦ 983
- ♣ J10865

#### South

- ♠ KJ4
- **♥** Q2
- ♦ A1054
- **♣** KQ73

After the auction above, Kolesnik (N) bid  $3\clubsuit$  (Stayman). Freeman (S) bid  $3\spadesuit$ , no major, and North rebid 3NT, all pass. West led the  $\spadesuit 5$ : eight – ace – four. East returned the  $\spadesuit 3$ : jack – six –  $\spadesuit 3$ . Plan the play.

Board 10: Dealer North: Both vulnerable



Against South's 3NT, West led the  $\clubsuit 5$ : eight – ace – four. East returned the  $\spadesuit 3$ : jack – six –  $\spadesuit 3$ . South played the  $\blacktriangledown Q$  at trick 3: king – ace – four, knocked out the  $\clubsuit A$  and had nine tricks, +600. As the cards lie, it does not matter whether you tackle clubs or take the heart finesse at trick 3, but there was a reason why South chose the heart finesse first.

With 2 spade tricks, 1 heart. 1 diamond and 4 clubs, South still needed an extra trick and that would have to come from the hearts. East was slightly more likely to have the  $\forall K$  (9 points in total for East) than the A (10 Points for East). If South plays the A and West wins and knocks out the A then if the A is with East, 3NT will fail.

If the  $\triangledown Q$  had lost to the  $\triangledown K$  with East, a diamond switch would defeat 3NT, but there is no certainty that East would find the diamond switch. Further, if East does have the  $\triangledown K$ , West's diamonds might well be headed by the K-Q-J and West might then have chosen a diamond lead.

#### At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<b>Bramley</b>	Jansma	Woolsey	Willenken
	Pass	2 <b>♦</b> (1)	Pass
3 <b>♠</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (1) Weak two in spades or in hearts
- (2) Pass or correct

South might have bid 2NT, but that is much tougher over the multi-2◆, when East's long major might have been hearts. North led the ♣J: two – three – ace. West played the ◆6: nine – king – ace. A heart switch would beat 3NT, but that was not a sure thing, particularly as West had bid 3♠, pass or correct, implying a good holding in hearts.

At trick 3, South returned the  $\clubsuit Q$ . West ruffed and cashed  $\blacklozenge Q$ ,  $\blacklozenge J$ , discarding a heart from dummy. Next came  $\blacklozenge 7: \spadesuit 8 - \spadesuit 9 - \blacklozenge 10$ . West ruffed dummy's  $\clubsuit 9$  and played the  $\spadesuit 10$ . West lost 2 spades, a heart and a diamond, but had 9 tricks, +140 and +12 Imps to KOLESNIK.

Jacob Freeman is a member of Canada's Youth Team. If you wish to read more about Finn Kolesnik, see <a href="http://acbldistrict22.com/D22/includes/2018/kolesnik.pdf">http://acbldistrict22.com/D22/includes/2018/kolesnik.pdf</a>.

## **Problem for Tomorrow:**

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	3♣	?

What would you do as South with:

- **▲** 1086
- ♥ A9742
- ♦ AK6
- **♣** J9

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

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New book: *The Power of Pass* (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.