

# 165. Quaranteens

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	2NT <sup>(2)</sup>
	?		

(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♣ (Stayman). Freeman (S) bid 3♠, no major, and North rebid 3NT, all pass. West led the ♠5: eight – ace – four. East returned the ♠3: jack – six – ♦3. Plan the play.

Board 10: Dealer North : Both vulnerable

		North		
		♠ 8		
		♥ AJ93		
		♦ 983		
		♣ J10865		
West			East	
♠ 1065			♠ AQ9732	
♥ K10876			♥ 54	
♦ QJ76			♦ K2	
♣ A			♣ 942	
		South		
		♠ KJ4		
		♥ Q2		
		♦ A1054		
		♣ KQ73		

Against South's 3NT, West led the ♠5: eight – ace – four. East returned the ♠3: jack – six – ♦3. South played the ♥Q at trick 3: king – ace – four, knocked out the ♣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 ♥K (9 points in total for East) than the ♣A (10 Points for East). If South plays the ♣K and West wins and knocks out the ♠K, then if the ♥K is with East, 3NT will fail.

If the ♥Q had lost to the ♥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 ♥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
<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Woolsey</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
	Pass	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
3♠ <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 ♣Q. West ruffed and cashed ♦Q, ♦J, discarding a heart from dummy. Next came ♦7: ♠8 – ♠9 – ♦10. West ruffed dummy's ♠9 and played the ♠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 <http://acbldistrict22.com/D22/includes/2018/kolesnik.pdf>.

## 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?**

*Every day, thousands of innocent plants are killed by vegetarians. Help end the violence. Eat steak.*

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