

184. Rest where you are or go for it?

By Ron Klinger

With one session, 14 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 81 Imps to 69.

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) 12-14

(2) Simple Stayman

What would you do as North with:

♠ K1054
♥ KQ97
♦ 8
♣ Q1098

The expectation for a weak 1NT opening is 7-8 losers. If opener is 4-3-3-3, an 8-loser hand is common for the 12-14 points range. North has 10 HCP + a singleton (add 3 points). That puts you marginally in the game zone.

What about losers? North has a 6-loser hand. If opener has 7 losers, $6 + 7 = 13$ and $24 - 13 = 11$ tricks likely. If opener has the 8-loser hand, $6 + 8 = 14$ and $24 - 14 = 10$ tricks are likely. You could invite with 3♥, but as the Losing Trick Count indicates 10 or 11 tricks are probable, you should bid 4♥. The LTC does not come with guarantees – I cannot promise you the eternal sunshine of the spotless mind – but the LTC is about 80% accurate. That justifies 4♥.

After 4 boards in Session 4, the score was [LEVINE](#) 92, [KOLESNIK](#) 75. [LEVINE](#) won more Imps on this deal:

Session 4: Board 47

Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K1054	
	♥ KQ107	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q1098	
West		East
♠ 86		♠ J72
♥ 42		♥ 863
♦ AK976		♦ Q1054
♣ K732		♣ AJ5
	South	
	♠ AQ93	
	♥ AJ95	
	♦ J32	
	♣ 64	

After the auction above, Woolsey passed 2♥, which became the contract. Rodwell (W) led the ♦A and switched to the ♠8: four – two – nine. Bramley (S) ruffed the ♦3 in dummy, played ♥K and ♥10 to the ♥A and ruffed the ♦J. After ♠5 to ♠A, he drew the missing trump and had ten tricks, +170.

Board 47: Dealer East : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ K1054	
	♥ KQ107	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q1098	
West		East
♠ 86		♠ J72
♥ 42		♥ 863
♦ AK976		♦ Q1054
♣ K732		♣ AJ5
	South	
	♠ AQ93	
	♥ AJ95	
	♦ J32	
	♣ 64	

At the other table:

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

(1) Playing 4-card majors

(2) 4+ hearts, game invitation or stronger

(3) Minimum opening, not forcing

West led the ♦A and switched to the ♣2: eight – jack – four. East cashed the ♣A and continued with the ♣5. South ruffed with the ♥9, cashed the ♥A, played the ♥5 to the ♥K, ruffed the ♣Q with the ♥J, ruffed a diamond in dummy, drew the last trump and had ten tricks, +420 and +6 Imps.

Note that even though South has only 12 HCP with the ♦J useless and an 8-loser hand, game in hearts is still a good bet.

With 9 boards to go it was [LEVINE](#) 98, [KOLESNIK](#) 75.

Problem for Tomorrow:

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

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

If you replace the 'W' in 'What', 'When' and 'Where' with a 'T', you are rewarded with the answer to each of them.

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.