

166. Confidence man

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	3♣	4♥
?			

What would you do as West with:

♠ Q7
♥ K653
♦ 10982
♣ KQ10

(Answer on next page)

Board 17: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	♠ K9542		
	♥ QJ10		
	♦ 754		
	♣ 84		
♠ Q7		♠ AJ3	
♥ K653		♥ 8	
♦ 10982		♦ QJ3	
♣ KQ10		♣ A76532	
	♠ 1086		
	♥ A9742		
	♦ AK6		
	♣ J9		

This was yesterday's question:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ 1086
♥ A9742
♦ AK6
♣ J9

What would you do as South if it had started this way:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	?

With a dead minimum opening facing 6-9 points, the textbook answer to both of these questions is Pass. You are probably wondering, 'Why is he asking such a simple question?'. Perhaps there is a psychological aspect? Today's deal comes from the 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).

Board 17: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North		
	♠ K9542		
	♥ QJ10		
	♦ 754		
	♣ 84		
West		East	
♠ Q7		♠ AJ3	
♥ K653		♥ 8	
♦ 10982		♦ QJ3	
♣ KQ10		♣ A76532	
	South		
	♠ 1086		
	♥ A9742		
	♦ AK6		
	♣ J9		
West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♥	3♣	4♥!
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Given that you have 12 HCP and partner has 6-9 points, it is not likely that East-West have a game available. Bob Hamman, however, was not prepared to take that risk, especially at this vulnerability, and even though he knew his contract would fail, he boldly jumped to 4♥, all pass.

Had West doubled 4♥, Hamman would have regretted his action, but West was taken in by South's confidence. Trusting South more than the cards he was looking at and partner's vulnerable overcall, West passed and 4♥ became the contract.

West led ♣K, ♣Q and switched to the ♦10. South took ♦K, ♦A and ran the ♠8 to East's ♠J. East cashed the ♦Q and switched to the ♥8: two – king – ten. Next came the ♠Q, king, ace. East returned the ♠3. West ruffed and that was four down, East-West +200. No wonder South was not expecting 4♥ to make.

At the other table:

	North		
West	<i>Silverstein</i>	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>		<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

After East's takeout double, fine on strength and shape but a little short on spade length, South might not have escaped a penalty double if South had jumped to 4♥, Hamman-style.

North led the ♥Q, winning, and continued with the ♥10: ♦3 – ♥4 – ♥K. West played the ♠Q, king, ace, and had nine tricks, +600, 9 Imps to KOLESNIK.

As you can see, 3NT is unbeatable for East-West. Had Hamman been doubled in 4♥, it would have cost 800 and 5 Imps. As it was, 4♥ –200 picked up 9 Imps.

KOLESNIK won by the match by 142 Imps to 113.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

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

(1) 14-16 points

(2) 4-major, 5+ minor

(3) Natural, offer to play

What would you do as East with:

♠ 10843

♥ 10

♦ KQJ106

♣ J76

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

How come lipstick does not do what it says?

New book: <i>The Power of Pass</i> (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.
