

# 181. When passing works and when it doesn't

By Ron Klinger

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	?	

- (1) Natural, not forcing  
(2) Strong diamond raise

What would you do as East with:

♠ J5  
♥ KQJ104  
♦ 83  
♣ A763

The final of the 2020 North America Online Bridge Championship was between [LEVINE](#) (Mike Levine – Eddie Wold, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness, Jeff Meckstroth – Eric Rodwell) and [KOLESNIK](#) (Finn Kolesnik age 16 – Jacob Freeman age 19, Bob Hamman – Peter Weichsel, Bart Bramley – Kit Woolsey).

Bd. 14: Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

	North		
	♠ A1064		
	♥ 865		
	♦ KJ4		
	♣ Q95		
West		East	
♠ KQ9732		♠ J5	
♥ 932		♥ KQJ104	
♦ 109		♦ 83	
♣ 42		♣ A763	
	South		
	♠ 8		
	♥ A7		
	♦ AQ7652		
	♣ KJ108		

West	North	East	South
<i>Wold</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Levine</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East might have opened 1♥ (Rule of 20 and Rule of 22 both suggest opening 1♥) and might have bid 3♥ after 2♠ : Pass. However, passing both times worked out well for East as he was on lead against 3NT. He began with the ♥K, ducked, and the ♥4 (suit-preference for clubs) at trick 2. Declarer crossed to the ♦J and played the ♣9. East rose with the ♠A and cashed three more hearts to take 3NT one down, East-West +50.

At the other table, after the auction at the top of the page, Bramley (E) passed 3♥ and South bid 3NT, all pass. West led the ♠Q, underleading. Helness (S) took the ♠A and knocked out the ♣A. East took the ♣A on the third round of clubs and switched to the ♥K. South claimed 11 tricks, +460 and 11 Imps to [LEVINE](#).

In the problem auction, it was strange for East not to double 3♥ to ask for a heart lead. That was a lead that could not cost.

[LEVINE](#) won Session 1 by 35 Imps to 32

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
2♣	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3♠
Pass	?		

(1) Spade raise, game invitation or better

What would you do as North with:

- ♠ AJ9
- ♥ Q8
- ♦ KJ9865
- ♣ 63

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

*Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and started to dig. (British Military Staff Appraisal)*

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](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) or telephone 0411 229 705.