

182. One more for the road?

By Ron Klinger

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

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

(1) Spade raise, game invitation or better

What would you do as North with:

♠ AJ9
♥ Q8
♦ KJ9865
♣ 63

If you count points, you would say, '11 HCP plus 1 point for each doubleton, 13 points, I should bid game, 4♠.'
If you count losers, you would say, '2 spade losers, 2 hearts losers, 2 diamond losers, 2 club losers, total 8 losers. Partner opened. That should be 7 losers. $8 + 7 = 15$ and $24 - 15 = 9$ tricks expected. Therefore I should pass 3♠'

After Session 1 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 35-32.

Session 2: Board 21

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AJ9	
	♥ Q8	
	♦ KJ9865	
	♣ 63	
West		East
♠ 75		♠ 1063
♥ AK54		♥ J763
♦ 74		♦ 103
♣ AK742		♣ QJ95
	South	
	♠ KQ842	
	♥ 1092	
	♦ AQ2	
	♣ 108	

At the other table it began Pass : 1♠ : 2♣ : 2NT (spade raise, game-invitation or better), : Pass : 3♠, all pass. Weichsel led the ♣A, East playing the ♣Q. Then came the ♥K, ♣4 to the ♣J and the ♥3 to the ♥A. Meckstroth ruffed the next heart with dummy's ♠9, drew trumps and had nine tricks, +140.

At the other table, after the auction at the top of the page, Kolesnik (S) raised 3♠ to 4♠, all pass. On some days that could have been the winning decision. This was not one of them. Wold (W) led the ♣A, ♣5 from East, followed by the ♥K, ♥A, ♣K and that was one down, -100 and 6 Imps to [LEVINE](#).

[LEVINE](#) won Session 2 by 24-19 and led by 58-51 at halfway.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	?		

(1) Playing 5-card majors

What would you do as North with:

- ♠ Q1086
- ♥ A95
- ♦ 1092
- ♣ A52

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

Has two brains; one is lost and the other one is out looking for it. (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 or telephone 0411 229 705.